

KNTV/NBC Bay Area

Quarterly Issues/Programs Report

Third Quarter 2009

July 1, 2009 to September 31, 2009

KNTV/NBC BAY AREA is responsive to the principal issues arising in its community through regularly scheduled public affairs programming, newscasts, public service announcements as well as documentaries and specials. The following is a list of some of the programs that have provided the station's most significant treatment of community issues during the preceding three-month period.

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, & EMPLOYMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/6/09 REPORTED THAT FUELED BY RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, HOME FORECLOSURES AND BANKRUPTCIES... CALIFORNIA, MICHIGAN AND SOUTH CAROLINA SUFFERED THE MOST FINANCIAL STRESS IN THE MONTH OF MAY. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DOES THE MONTHLY ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMY AND IT'S IMPACT. RESEARCH FOUND THE LEAST-STRESSED STATES ARE NORTH DAKOTA-- HELPED BY ITS HEALTHY OIL BUSINESS, AND NEBRASKA, WHICH BENEFITS FROM ITS MAIN INDUSTRIES: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD-PRODUCTION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO OFFICIALS SAY THE NUMBER OF FORECLOSURES JUMPED MORE THAN 700 PERCENT IN THE LAST FEW YEARS. THEY'VE ALSO SEEN A BIG RISE IN COMPANIES, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE IN TROUBLE. THE HOME OF VHERNY RUSTRIAN... GIVES THE APPEARANCE OF A NORMAL FAMILY.... PURSUING NORMAL DREAMS. OUT OF FEAR OF LOSING HIS HOME, RUSTRIAN SOUGHT HELP FROM TWO SEPARATE COMPANIES THAT OFFER MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE. BUT INSTEAD OF ENDING UP WITH A MORE MANAGEABLE MORTGAGE... HIS PAYMENTS ACTUALLY WENT UP. NOW... LENDERS HAVE FORECLOSED ON RUSTRIAN'S DREAM HOME AS HE WAITS FOR THE INEVITABLE EVICTION NOTICE. TODAY, SAN FRANCISCO CITY LEADERS ANNOUNCED NEW LEGISLATION, TO CRACK DOWN ON MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE COMPANIES THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TROUBLED HOMEOWNERS. THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION, INTRODUCED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TODAY... WOULD REQUIRE MORTGAGE CONSULTANTS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN CONTRACTS... AND GUARANTEE RESULTS. THE LEGISLATION WOULD COME TOO LATE FOR RUSTRIAN. BUT HE SAYS BY SPEAKING OUT... HE HOPES TO HELP OTHERS... AVOID THE SAME MISTAKES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT A BART STRIKE IS STILL A POSSIBILITY TONIGHT. BUT BOTH SIDES ARE STILL AT THE TABLE AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR COMMUTERS. THE UNION HAS TO GIVE 72-HOURS NOTICE TO BART MANAGEMENT, BEFORE THEY CAN AUTHORIZE A STRIKE. SOME 350-THOUSAND DAILY BART RIDERS ARE HOPING A COMPROMISE WILL UNTIMATELY KEEP TRAINS ROLLING. ART MANAGEMENT AND 28-HUNDRED UNION MEMBERS CAN'T COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON WAGES, BENIFITS, AND NOW WORK RULES, THE SYSTEM THAT KEEPS HIGHWAYS FROM BECOMING PARKING LOTS MAY STOP. BART WANTS A 100 MILLION DOLLAR WAGE CONCESSION FROM UNION WORKERS OVER FOUR YEARS. THAT'S SOMETHING THE UNION IS NOT WILLING TO GIVE AT LEAST NOT RIGHT NOW. TODAY THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN,

URGING THE PUBLIC TO USE ALTERNATIVES TO BART LIKE RIDESHARE, BUSES, TRAINS OR FERRIES. YOU CAN ALSO USE WEBSITES LIKE 511.ORG AND SPARETHEAIR.ORG TO FIND OUT WHAT TO DO INCASE THERE'S A COMMUTER CRISIS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/8/09 REPORTED THAT GOOGLE IS MOUNTING A SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO MICROSOFT'S WINDOWS SYSTEM. GOOGLE IS DESIGNING AN OPERATING SYSTEM ESPECIALLY FOR THE NEW, LESS POWERFUL BREED OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS, CALLED NETBOOKS. UNTIL NOW, MICROSOFT HAS CORNERED THE MARKET ON THE PROGRAM TO RUN MOST PERSONAL COMPUTERS THROUGH "WINDOWS". GOOGLE'S SYSTEM WILL RUN THROUGH THE WEBSITE'S NINE-MONTH OLD WEB BROWSER CALLED 'CHROME.' THE COMPANY WILL INTRODUCE THE NEW PROGRAM NEXT YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/9/09 REPORTED THAT THE WAY IS CLEAR FOR GENERAL MOTORS TO EMERGE FROM BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION IN RECORD TIME. A JUDGE'S ORDER ALLOWING G-M TO SELL MOST OF ITS ASSETS TO A NEW COMPANY TOOK EFFECT TODAY. THE CAR-MAKER'S C-E-O WILL HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE TOMORROW TO OUTLINE EXECUTIVE CUTS, MANAGEMENT CHANGES, AND THE COMPANY'S PLAN TO STRESS QUALITY AND FUEL ECONOMY. ONCE THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL AUTOMAKER, ANALYSTS SAY THE "NEW GM" WILL BE "LEANER AND GREENER" AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/10/09 REPORTED THAT TOYOTA RELEASED A STATEMENT THAT IT MAY ACTUALLY PULL OUT OF THE JOINT AUTO VENTURE ITSELF IN THE FUTURE .. THIS ON THE HEELS OF GM ANNOUNCING IT'S PLAN TO ABANDON NUMMI. THERE ARE FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE WORKING HERE .. IF NUMMI CLOSES, THOSE JOBS WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY. TOYOTA'S STATEMENT TODAY READING "WE NEED TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT CAN BE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO CONTRACT WITH NUMMI WITHOUT GM. UNDER THE CURRENT BUSINESS CIRCUMSTANCES, TOYOTA MUST REGRETTABLY CONSIDER TAKING NECESSARY STEPS TO DISSOLVE THE JOINT VENTURE." TO FREMONT, THAT WOULD BE CRUSHING NEWS. NO TIMETABLE YET BUT TOYOTA SAYS IT WILL TRY TO MAKE A DECISION ON ITS FUTURE HERE AT NUMMI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/10/09 REPORTED THAT IT COULD BE THE GREAT AMERICAN COMEBACK IF PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO BUY CARS. GM, OUT OF BANKRUPTCY, AND JUMPING INTO THE WORLD OF ONLINE SALES. THIS IS WHAT GENERAL MOTORS 'WANTS' TO SEE: THE RAVEL FAMILY OF SAN JOSE, LOOKING AT NEW CARS. THEY ALREADY OWN ONE GM CAR. NOW, THEY'RE SHOPPING FOR A SECOND. GM'S EMERGENCE FROM BANKRUPTCY WILL ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL IF THEY CAN 'KEEP' SELLING CARS. OXANNE MELINA OF CAMPBELL OWNS A GM TRUCK, AND IS LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT. GM SAYS IT WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO TRY AND KEEP PEOPLE LIKE HER IN THE FOLD. ONE NEW STRATEGY- A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DEALERS AND SILICON VALLEY DOT COM AUCTION GIANT EBAY. LETTING CUTSOMERS BID ON NEW CARS OR BUY THEM AT A PRE-DETERMINED PRICE. WE TRIED TO TALK TO MANAGEMENT AT BOTH COURTESY CHEVROLET, AND CARL CHEVROLET, BUT NEITHER WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE SO WE'LL LEAVE THAT TO SCOTT RAVEL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/13/09 REPORTED THAT THE REST OF THE RETAIL WORLD IS SAGGING BUT HIGH-TECH GADGETS ARE STILL FLYING OFF STORE SHELVES PUTTING MONEY IN THE COFFERS OF THE SILICON VALLEY COMPANIES WHO MAKE THEM. AT RETREVO, THEY TRACK TECH TRENDS AND SAY INSTEAD OF BIG-TICKET PURCHASES .. MORE CONSUMERS ARE SPENDING THEIR SUMMER DOLLARS ON COOL, MUST-HAVE DEVICES. WHICH MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY 'WE' ARE SEEING JOB GROWTH, WHILE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY IS STILL LAYING OFF.

ANOTHER STATISTIC, THIS ONE FROM SAN FRANCISCO JOB SITE GLASSDOOR.COM. THEY SAY BAY AREA WORKERS ARE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT BEING LAYED OFF THAN THEY'VE BEEN IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/16/09 REPORTED THAT CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS HAVE COME UP WITH A CREATIVE WAY TO PREVENT THE STATE'S LAST CAR ASSEMBLY PLANT FROM SHUTTING DOWN. NUMMI IN FREMONT HAS BEEN OPERATING THROUGH A JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN GENERAL MOTORS AND TOYOTA FOR 25 YEARS. SINCE G-M ANNOUNCED PLANS LAST MONTH TO ABANDON ITS STAKE IN NUMMI, TOYOTA IS NOW CONSIDERING PULLING OUT, TOO. ONE ASSEMBLY BILL CALLS FOR NUMMI TO GET SALES TAX BENEFITS WORTH MILLIONS. THE STATE SENATE IS INTRODUCING A SIMILAR BILL. IF NUMMI SHUTS DOWN, 5-THOUSAND WORKERS WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/21/09 REPORTED THAT APPLE, UNLIKE THE REST OF THE ECONOMY, IS STILL PRINTING MONEY .. SELLING LOTS OF NEW PHONES AND LAPTOPS. ITS NEIGHBOR YAHOO, ON THE OTHER HAND, SHOWS THAT WHILE THERE MAY BE BETTER NEWS ON THE HORIZON, THE ECONOMY IS STILL NOT COMPLETELY RECOVERED. SHARES OF APPLE STOCK SOARED AFTER HOURS, RISING FIVE PERCENT. YAHOO SHARES DROPPED BY ABOUT THREE PERCENT BEFORE THE CLOSING BELL, STOCKS CONTINUED TO STAY POSITIVE. THE DOW NOW UP FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE DAYS. THE NASDAQ MAKES IT NINE IN A ROW. CHIP MAKER ADVANCED MICRO DEVICES ALSO REPORTED EARNINGS TONIGHT. THE SUNNYVALE COMPANY SAW A DROP IN SALES AND ITS STOCK DOWN MORE THAN 11 PERCENT IN EXTENDED TRADING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/02/09 REPORTED THAT PASCAL ROUBINEAU IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR ON THE CITY OF SAN JOSE'S SEWER SYSTEM. HIS HEALTHCARE - AND THAT OF 63-HUNDRED CITY WORKERS - COSTS MORE THAN IT SHOULD, ACCORDING TO A NEW AUDIT. THAT AUDIT SAYS THAT SAN JOSE SAVE AS MUCH AS 20-MILLION DOLLARS BY ADDING AN ANNUAL DEDUCTIBLE, INCREASING EMPLOYEE PREMIUMS TO TWENTY PERCENT, UPPING DOCTOR VISIT COPAYS TO 25-DOLLARS FROM THE CURRENT TEN DOLLAR COPAY, AND PAYING EMPLOYEES 33-HUNDRED IF THEY DECLINE COVERAGE, INSTEAD OF NEARLY 56-HUNDRED THE CITY PAYS NOW. GENEROUS BENEFITS USED TO COMPENSATE CIVIL SERVANTS FOR MAKING LESS THAN THEIR PRIVATE SECTOR PEERS. BUT, A NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE GONE BROKE PAYING BENEFITS THAT WERE OUT OF WHACK RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CITY AND ITS EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN STRAINED THROUGH THE BUDGET PROCESS. THE LATEST BUDGET SAVED THE POLICE MOUNTED UNIT, PARK RANGERS AND TWO FIRE STATIONS BY FREEZING OR CUTTING SOME MANAGERS AND UNION WORKERS' PAY. ASKING WORKERS TO PAY MORE FOR THEIR HEALTHCARE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE WARMLY RECEIVED. THOUGH HEALTHCARE CHANGES DID WORK IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/03/09 REPORTED THAT AS THE RECESSION DRAGS ON, SOME WOMEN ARE FINDING THEY CAN HELP OUT THEIR FAMILIES WEATHER THE FINANCIAL STRESS OF THE DOWNTURN - AND FOR ONE CALIFORNIA MOM - ITS REALLY PAYING OFF. THE SQUEAK SQUEAK OF LITTLE ERICA'S SHOES MAKES IT EASY TO KEEP TRACK OF HER AS SHE'S OUT PLAYING WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS. MOM AND REALTOR CHRISTINA CATALANO STARTED SELLING THE SHOES THROUGH HER HOME-BASED BUSINESS "GOT SQUEAKERS?" AFTER THE REAL ESTATE MARKET TOOK A TUMBLE AND SHE NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT HER INCOME. JUST THIS SPRING, FORMER FLIGHT ATTENDANT LOLLY O'DORISIO STARTED TURNING HER LIVING ROOM INTO A BOUTIQUE. SHE'S FOUND HOSTING THESE TRUNK SHOWS IS A SIDE BUSINESS THAT SEEMS TO BE RECESSION-PROOF. MIRA MASUKAWA'S PEEK-A-BOO BLANKET AND KANGAROO COVERS ARE A SECOND

SOURCE OF INCOME FOR HER FAMILY AND ALLOWING THEM TO ACTUALLY SAVE MONEY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/3/09 REPORTED THAT A STRIKE VOTE BY THE STATE'S LARGEST EMPLOYEE'S UNION HAS THE GOVERNOR LOOKING AT LEGAL OPTIONS IF AS MANY AS 95-THOUSAND WORKERS WALK OFF THE JOB. THE EMPLOYEE'S UNION, WHICH REPRESENTS EVERYONE FROM D-M-V WORKERS TO NURSES, AUTHORIZED A STRIKE LAST WEEK. THAT FOLLOWED FAILED CONTRACT TALKS AND THE GOVERNOR'S ORDER TO FURLOUGH WORKERS THREE DAYS A MONTH. THE UNION SAYS NO IMMEDIATE STRIKE IS PLANNED AND MEMBERS WILL MEET IN THE COMING WEEKS TO DECIDE A COURSE OF ACTION. THE UNION DOES HAVE A NO STRIKE CLAUSE. BUT OFFICIALS SAY IT'S A MOOT POINT BECAUSE THEY CLAIM THE WORKER FURLOUGHS ARE ILLEGAL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/3/09 REPORTED THAT BAY AREA DEALERS 'ARE' MOVING NEW CARS OFF THE LOTS AT A MUCH FASTER PACE THAN WHAT WE'VE SEEN IN A FEW YEARS AND THEY CREDIT THE CASH FOR CLUNKERS PROGRAM, BUT SOME TELL US THAT, BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T PAID THEM 'BACK' FOR THE DEALS YET THEY'RE STRUGGLING AND RUNNING SHORT OF CASH. AS OF THIS EVENING, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS VOTED TO ADD TWO BILLION DOLLARS TO THE CASH FOR CLUNKERS PROGRAM. THE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE LATER THIS WEEK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/06/09 REPORTED THAT NUMMI IS ONCE AGAIN THE FOCUS OF CALIFORNIA LAWMAKERS TRYING TO DEVISE A PLAN TO CONVINCE TOYOTA TO STAY IN FREMONT. LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI IS SPEARHEADING THE EFFORT, PROPOSING NEW TAX BREAKS FOR TOYOTA IF THEY REMAIN IN FREMONT ALONG WITH INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE SUPPLIERS TO DO BUSINESS HERE, ALSO MAKING IT EASIER FOR NUMMI TO STAY OPEN. ULTIMATELY, THIS IS ABOUT JOBS. AND IF TOYOTA DECIDES TO STAY IN BUSINESS HERE, THESE WORKERS ARE JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG AS FAR AS WHAT FREMONT GETS TO KEEP RIPPLES THAT, WITHOUT NUMMI, COULD BE FELT THROUGHOUT THE BAY AREA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/10/09 REPORTED THAT AFTER THREE DAYS OF VOTING, THE LARGEST UNION...S-E-I-U LOCAL 1021 HAS APPROVED A NEW FOUR YEAR BART CONTRACT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMING DOWN MORE THAN AN HOUR AGO HERE AT S-E-I-U 1021'S HEADQUARTERS. UNION MEMBERS BY A 75 TO 25 PERCENT MAJORITY VOTE RATIFIED A DEAL THAT WILL SECURE A MAJORITY OF THE BENEFITS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...AVOID LAYOFFS. THE NEW CONTRACT ASKS WORKERS TO TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DO THEM WITHOUT ANY RAISES FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. THE UNION SAYS IT TRIED TO KEEP AS MUCH AS IT COULD FOR THE WORKERS INCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND NO FURLOUGH DAYS. BART ASKED S-E-I-U AND THE OTHER UNION A-T-U TO REDUCE \$100 MILLION FROM THE DEFICIT. S-E-I-U SAYS ITS READY TO GO BACK TO WORK. -E-I-U IS REASSURING THOSE WHO USE BART SHOULD EXPECT THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICE AND SAFETY. NOW...WE'RE WAITING TO SEE HOW THE OTHER UNION WILL VOTE. THE A-T-U IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE ITS RESULTS LATER TONIGHT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/10/09 REPORTED THAT AFTER THREE DAYS OF VOTING, THE LARGEST UNION...S-E-I-U LOCAL 1021 HAS APPROVED A NEW FOUR YEAR BART CONTRACT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT, COMING DOWN MORE THAN AN HOUR AGO, HERE AT S-E-I-U 1021'S HEADQUARTERS. UNION MEMBERS BY A 75 TO 25 PERCENT MAJORITY VOTE RATIFIED A DEAL THAT WILL SECURE A MAJORITY OF THE BENEFITS AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, AVOID LAYOFFS. THE NEW CONTRACT ASKS WORKERS TO TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DO THEM WITHOUT ANY RAISES FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. THE UNION SAYS IT TRIED TO KEEP AS MUCH AS IT

COULD FOR THE WORKERS INCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND NO FURLOUGH DAYS. BART ASKED S-E-I-U AND THE OTHER UNION A-T-U TO REDUCE \$100 MILLION FROM THE DEFICIT. S-E-I-U SAYS ITS READY TO GO BACK TO WORK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT IT'S BEEN A GOOD SUMMER FOR BAY AREA FORD, LINCOLN, AND MERCURY DEALERS -- SALES WERE HOT LAST MONTH-- UP BY 26-PERCENT. NATIONWIDE, FORD SAW SALES RISE 17-PERCENT HIGHER THAN IN AUGUST OF 2008. *CASH FOR CLUNKERS* GETS THE CREDIT. IT TURNS OUT AUTOMAKERS BASED IN ASIA DID BETTER THAN DETROIT. ABOUT ONE OF EVERY FIVE VEHICLES BOUGHT THROUGH THE PROGRAM WAS A TOYOTA, FOLLOWED BY G-M, FORD AND HONDA. BUT ANALYSTS WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. SALES FELL SHARPLY IN THE LAST WEEK OF THE MONTH, AFTER CASH-FOR-CLUNKERS ENDED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT EBAY STOCK TOOK A HIT TODAY AFTER THE SAN JOSE COMPANY ANNOUNCED A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR DEAL TO SELL ITS CONTROLLING STAKE IN SKYPE. EBAY IS SELLING 65-PERCENT OF SKYPE TO AN INVESTMENT GROUP FOR ONE-POINT-NINE BILLION DOLLARS IN CASH. EBAY STILL OWNS THE REMAINING 35-PERCENT. THE DEAL VALUES SKYPE SLIGHTLY BELOW WHAT EBAY PAID FOR IT FOUR YEARS AGO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT INTUIT SWALLOWED UP SAN FRANCISCO BASED MINT DOT COM. THE MOUNTAIN VIEW COMPANY AGREED TO BUY MINT DOT COM FOR ABOUT 170 MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH. MINT DOT COM-- A PERSONAL FINANCE START-UP-- IS A FREE TOOL TO HELP USERS KEEP TRACK OF THEIR INCOME AND SPENDING. INTUIT'S OWN QUICKEN ONLINE COMPETED WITH MINT-DOT COM-- BUT QUICKEN COSTS A FEW DOLLARS A MONTH. INTUIT SAYS MINT DOT COM WILL BECOME ITS PRIMARY PERSONAL FINANCE WEBSITE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/15/09 REPORTED THAT STOCKS HIT A NEW HIGH FOR THE YEAR TODAY AFTER FED CHAIRMAN BEN BERNANKE SAID THE WORST IS OVER. BERNANKE SAID HE EXPECTS SOME GROWTH IN THE THIRD QUARTER, EXTENDING INTO NEXT YEAR. HOWEVER, HE SAYS THE PACE OF THAT GROWTH WILL BE MODERATE. THE MARKETS RESPONDED WITH A RALLY. THE DOW JONES PICKED UP 56-POINTS TO CLOSE AT 96-83 AND THE NASDAQ GAINED TEN POINTS TO CLOSE AT 21-02... BOTH ARE NEW HIGHS FOR THE YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/15/09 REPORTED THAT BLOCKBUSTER MAY SHUT DOWN CLOSE TO A THOUSAND STORES. COMPETITION FROM NETFLIX AND REDBOX HAS CUT DEEPLY INTO BLOCKBUSTERS PROFITS. IN DISCLOSURE DOCUMENTS, THE VIDEO RENTAL CHAIN SAYS IT EXPECTS TO CLOSE UP TO 960-STORES IN ORDER TO SAVE MONEY AND SATISFY LENDERS.

CONSUMER ISSUES

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/1/09 REPORTED THAT IF YOU LIKE LIVING ON THE EDGE, YOU'LL WANT TO CHECK-OUT CHICAGO'S NEWEST TOURIST ATTRACTION. THE SEARS TOWER SKYDECK OPENS "THE LEDGE", TOMORROW. THE GLASS BALCONY IS SUSPENDED 103 STORIES ABOVE GROUND, AND IS THE HIGHEST OBSERVATORY IN THE CITY. ON A CLEAR DAY, THOSE BRAVE ENOUGH TO STEP OUT ON THE FOUR-FOOT LEDGE CAN SEE UP TO 50-MILES OUT, AND TAKE-IN NEVER BEFORE SEEN "BREATH-TAKING" VIEWS OF DOWNTOWN. DON'T WORRY, THE GLASS BALCONIES CAN HOLD ABOUT FIVE TONS, THANKS TO THREE LAYERS, EACH A HALF-INCH THICK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/1/09 REPORTED THAT FARES HAVE GONE UP ON BART, A-C TRANSIT AND SAN FRANCISCO'S MUNI. FOR MUNI, NORMAL FARES ARE HIGHER, AND SO ARE ADULT MONTHLY PASSES AND FARES FOR SENIORS, CHILDREN AND THE DISABLED. ONE FARE WENT DOWN -- THE "LIFELINE LIFE PASS". IT'S NOW 30 DOLLARS. BART FARES ARE UP FOR ALL DESTINATIONS. THE SURCHARGE TO AND FROM S-F-O IS NOW 2-50, UP A BUCK AT A-C TRANSIT -- THE ADULT FARE HAS GONE UP A QUARTER TO 2 DOLLARS. FARES AT THE THREE TRANSIT AGENCIES WENT UP TODAY, WHICH IS, ONCE AGAIN, THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW FISCAL YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/2/09 REPORTED THAT FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY IS ON ITS WAY TO MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN WATER RECYCLING PROJECTS. WHILE 70-PERCENT OF THEM ARE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE COMING TO THE BAY AREA, SOME OF THE MONEY WILL GO TO SANITATION DEPARTMENTS IN ANTIOCH AND PITTSBURG. SAN JOSE AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY ARE GETTING MILLIONS FOR WATER RECYCLING AND RECLAMATION PROJECTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/9/09 REPORTED THAT IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOME TIME.. FLYING IS GOING TO THE DOGS LITERALLY. THANKS FOR A FORMER BAY AREA COUPLE. NOT ONLY IS 'PET AIRWAYS' GETTING OFF THE GROUND, THE INAUGURAL FLIGHT IS NEXT TUESDAY. A TERRIER NAMED ZOE WAS THE INSPIRATION. FIVE-YEARS AGO, HER OWNERS DIDN'T WANT HER RIDING IN CARGO WHEN THEY MOVED FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO FLORIDA. THEIR IDEA.. REPLACE THE SEATS ON SMALL JET WITH ROWS OF PET CRATES. PET AIRWAYS FLIES TO-AND-FROM FIVE CITIES FOR 150-DOLLARS. FLIGHTS FOR THE FIRST TWO-MONTHS ARE SOLD OUT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/10/09 REPORTED THAT SOME PEOPLE LOOKING TO SAVE A LITTLE MONEY THIS SUMMER, ARE SKIPPING EXPENSIVE TRIPS FOR "STAY- CATIONS". A POOL BUILDER IN DALLAS HAS TAKEN THE IDEA TO EXTREMES.. TURNING HIS BACKYARD INTO A WATER PARK.. COMPLETE WITH A 15-PERSON GROTTO, A LAZY RIVER, BAR STOOLS, FOUNTAINS, WATERFALL, BRIDGE SHOWER, FOG MACHINE, AND HOT TUB AND IT'S HIGH-TECH. HE SAYS YOU KNOW YOU'VE BUILT A PARADISE, WHEN YOU COME HOME AND FIND STRANGERS IN YOUR POOL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/21/09 REPORTED THAT THE I-PHONE APPLICATIONS HAVE TRULY REACHED BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS. NOW, THERE'S A NEW APP ALLOWING YOU TO SEND TEXT MESSAGES TO GOD--- NO, NOT STEVE JOBS... WE'RE TALKING AN EVEN HIGHER AUTHORITY. THE AUTHOR OF THIS APPLICATION IS A 17-YEAR OLD FROM SACRAMENTO COUNTY. ALLEN WRIGHT'S INVENTION WAS ONE OF JUST EIGHT SELECTED FROM 14-THOUSAND ENTRIES! AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM *MEDDLE-MOBILE* CLOSED THE DEAL. PRAYER MAY BE FREE IN CHURCH, BUT ON AN I-PHONE, IT WILL COST YOU 99-CENTS. YOU'D BETTER HOPE GOD DOESN'T USE A BLACKBERRY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/21/09 REPORTED THAT IN WASHINGTON D-C, IT'S A CHANCE TO BUY A HISTORIC PIECE OF PROPERTY LINKED TO RICHARD NIXON'S DOWNFALL. BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO WANT IT. THE WATERGATE HOTEL WENT ON THE AUCTION BLOCK THIS MORNING. THE OFFICE, RESIDENTIAL AND HOTEL COMPLEX WAS MADE FAMOUS IN 1972, AFTER BURGLARS BROKE INTO THE DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS OFFICE THERE. THE BURGLARY LED TO THE WATERGATE SCANDAL WHICH DROVE PRESIDENT NIXON FROM OFFICE. 10-BIDDERS

REGISTERED FOR TODAY'S AUCTION. BUT WHEN THE AUCTION OPENED AT 25-MILLION DOLLARS, THERE WERE NO TAKERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/03/09 REPORTED THAT BAY AREA DEALERS 'ARE' MOVING NEW CARS OFF THE LOTS AT A MUCH FASTER PACE THAN WHAT WE'VE SEEN IN A FEW YEARS AND THEY CREDIT THE CASH FOR CLUNKERS PROGRAM BUT SOME TELL US THAT, BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T PAID THEM 'BACK' FOR THE DEALS YET THEY'RE STRUGGLING AND RUNNING SHORT OF CASH. BONNIE MADE HER WAY TO STEVENS CREEK TOYOTA FROM SARATOGA, SAYING PEER PRESSURE HELPED HER PULL THE CASH FOR CLUNKER STIMULUS TRIGGER THANKS TO BONNIE, AND MANY OTHERS THIS DEALERSHIP IS RUNNING OUT OF NEW CARS. NEARLY TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE HAVE SAVED 45 HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH BY CASHING IN ON THEIR CLUNKERS BUT ALL THIS SALES SUCCESS HAS A PRICE STEVENS CREEK TOYOTA, AND OTHER BAY AREA DEALERSHIPS, "LOSE" 45 HUNDRED DOLLARS A SALE AND THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T PAID THEM BACK YET THEY'RE SITTING ON I-O-U'S AND RUNNING OUT OF CASH. TALK ABOUT A CATCH- THESE ARE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, BIG DAYS FOR DEALERS. BUT THE MORE CARS THEY SELL UNDER THE PROGRAM, THE MORE MONEY THEY LOSE, UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT SHOWS THEM THE MONEY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/04/09 REPORTED THAT CIGARETTE WARNINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET A LOT MORE GRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHS THAT DISPLAY THE EFFECTS OF SMOKING - LIKE MOUTH CANCER AND BLACKENED LUNGS - WILL START APPEARING ON PACKS OF CIGARETTES. THE TEXT ON THE LABELS WILL ALSO BE LARGER WITH VERY BLUNT WARNINGS THAT SAY THINGS LIKE, "SMOKING CAN KILL YOU." IT'S ALL PART OF NEW THE SMOKING PREVENTION AND TOBACCO CONTROL LAW, SIGNED LAST MONTH BY PRESIDENT OBAMA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/05/09 REPORTED THAT IF SOMEONE TRIES TO TELL YOU THEY SAW ELVIS SKY-DIVING INTO SAN FRANCISCO TODAY THEY DID. PLANES AND SKY-WRITERS FLEW-OVER THE CITY FIRST, PROMPTING EVERYONE TO LOOK UP. THEN A-HUNDRED COLORFUL PARACHUTES DRIFTED DOWN. AND THOSE WHO GOT A CLOSE LOOK ALSO GOT A SURPRISE. HE'S TALKING ABOUT T-MOBILE'S NEW *MY TOUCH* PHONE, WHICH GOES ON SALE TODAY. T-MOBILE SPENT MORE THAN 17-THOUSAND DOLLARS TO CHOREOGRAPH THIS SKY-HIGH EVENT... WHICH REQUIRED PERMISSION FROM THE F-A-A, THE PORT AUTHORITY, AND THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/06/09 REPORTED THAT **NOT** USING THAT CREDIT CARD IN YOUR WALLET COULD COST YOU. CREDIT CARD ISSUERS ARE FINDING NEW WAYS TO BOOST THEIR INCOME. ONE WAY IS BY PILING ON NEW FEES FOR INACTIVITY.. OR FOR PURCHASES MADE OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES. '5TH THIRD BANK'. IS CHARGING A 19-DOLLAR FEE, IF CREDIT CARD BORROWERS HAVE NO ACCOUNT ACTIVITY FOR 12 MONTHS. AND DISCOVER IS CHARGING A TWO PERCENT FEE ON PURCHASES MADE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY. IT'S BEST TO CHECK WITH YOUR CREDIT COMPANY TO FIND OUT WHAT NEW FEES YOU MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/11/09 REPORTED THAT HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET MORE THAN 200 MILES-PER-GALLON ON YOUR NEXT CAR? WELL, GENERAL MOTORS SAYS THAT REALITY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. THE DETROIT AUTOMAKER ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ITS MUCH ANTICIPATED ELECTRIC CAR = THE CHEVY VOLT = WILL GET A WHOPPING 230 MILES PER GALLON IN THE CITY. THE CAR WILL ONLY USE GAS TO RECHARGE ITS BATTERIES, MEANING IT WOULD COST ROUGHLY THREE CENTS A MILE TO DRIVE. AND IT WILL GO THREE HUNDRED MILES BEFORE IT HAS TO BE PLUGGED IN. THE VOLT WILL GO ON SALE IN THE FALL OF

2010, FOR ABOUT 40=THOUSAND DOLLARS. GM HAS STAKED MUCH OF ITS TECHNOLOGICAL REPUTATION ON THE VOLT, AS THE COMPANY TRIES TO REBUILD ITSELF.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/2/09 REPORTED THAT COMMUNITY LEADERS IN EAST PALO ALTO ARE LEADING A PROTEST AGAINST A VIOLENT SEXUAL PREDATOR MOVING INTO THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD. MAYOR RUBEN ABRICA (AH-BREE-KAH) IS LEADING THE PROTEST THAT STARTED MINUTES AGO OUTSIDE THE HOME OF 57-YEAR-OLD DONALD ROBINSON. ROBINSON WAS MOVED IN THURSDAY AFTER SPENDING 20 YEARS BEHIND BARS FOR THE RAPE AND BEATING OF SEVERAL WOMEN IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY. A JUDGE PLACED HIM IN THE HOME TO CONTINUE TREATMENT UNDER HEAVY SURVEILLANCE. MAYOR ABRICA (AH-BREE-KAH) SAYS THE HOME IS NEAR TWO SCHOOLS AND A DAY CARE CENTER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/4/09 REPORTED THAT THERE'S NEWS FOR ANYONE HOLDING A STATE-ISSUED I-O-U.. BEGINNING TODAY, THEY CAN BE CONVERTED TO CASH. THE STATE CONTROLLER AND DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AGREED TO MOVE THE DATE OF CASHING IN THOSE I-O-U'S --- FROM OCTOBER 2ND TO TODAY. POEPL E CAN VISIT THE STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE IN PERSON, TO GET THEIR MONEY ON THE SPOT. REDEMPTION BY MAIL COULD TAKE A WEEK TO TEN DAYS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/9/09 REPORTED THAT A TAXING MISTAKE IN THE SOUTH BAY WHERE THOUSANDS OF PROPERTY OWNERS MAY GET A SECOND TAX BILL. THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE REDUCED THE VALUE OF 98-THOUSAND HOMES LAST YEAR, BUT THE VALUE OF THREE-THOUSAND OF THEM CAME UP WRONG. THAT MEANS SOME HOMEOWNERS PAID LESS THAN THEY SHOULD HAVE AND BEGINNING NEXT WEEK THEY'LL START GETTING BILLS TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE. THE ASSESSOR TELLS NBC BAY AREA THOSE PEOPLE WILL STILL END UP PAYING LESS THAN LAST YEAR IN PROPERTY TAXES. LARRY STONE SAYS THERE WAS SIMPLY AN OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF PEOPLE ASKING TO HAVE THEIR PROPERTIES RE-ASSESSED.. STONE SAYS THE COUNTY IS LOOKING AT PURCHASING A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM TO PREVENT THE SAME MISTAKE FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT AS THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO STRUGGLES WITH THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN...AN UNFORESEEN PROBLEM IS COSTING IT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, SAN FRANCISCO HAS PAID OUT MORE THAN 5-MILLION DOLLARS...IN HUNDREDS OF CLAIMS INVOLVING POTHOLES. PLAINTIFFS HAVE SUED FOR INJURIES FROM STEPPING INTO POTHOLES, AS WELL AS MANGLED BICYCLES AND FLATTENED CAR TIRES. PAYOUTS HAVE RANGED FROM 70 DOLLARS TO OVER 900-THOUSAND. TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM, THE CITY HAS SET ASIDE MORE THAN 40-MILLION DOLLARS FOR STREET REPAIRS IN THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/15/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S TRANSPORTATION TEAM UNVEILED ITS NEW PLAN FOR HIGHER FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS. IT MEANS ALL NEW CARS AND TRUCKS HAVE TO AVERAGE 35-POINT-5 MILES PER GALLON BY 2016. CONSUMERS WOULD PAY ABOUT 13-HUNDRED DOLLARS MORE FOR A NEW VEHICLE, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION SAYS BUYERS WILL SAVE MORE THAN 3-THOUSAND DOLLARS ON GAS OVER THE LIFE OF A CAR OR TRUCK. THE WHITE HOUSE SAYS IT WOULD BE LIKE TAKING 42-MILLION CARS OFF THE ROAD AT ONCE. THE RULES AREN'T SET IN STONE. THEY HAVE TO BE FINALIZED IN MARCH BY THE E-P-A WHICH IS NEGOTIATING WITH CAR MANUFACTURERS.

CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILY, ELDERLY, MEN & WOMEN

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/2/09 REPORTED THAT CAMPBELL POLICE ARE PUTTING OUT AN ALERT FOR A MAN MISSING SINCE TUESDAY. 63-YEAR-OLD ROSS ABINANTI HAS SEVERE DEMENTIA. POLICE SAY HE WAS SEPARATED FROM HIS FAMILY AT A PARKING GARAGE ON SECOND STREET AROUND SEVEN TUESDAY NIGHT - AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN SINCE. ABINANTI IS ABOUT 5-FOOT-SEVEN, 270 POUNDS, WITH BROWN EYES AND GREY HAIR. HE WAS LAST SEEN WEARING A DARK POLO-STYLE SHIRT WITH VERTICAL STRIPES, A WHITE BASEBALL CAP, KHAKI SHORTS, WHITE SOCKS, AND TENNIS SHOES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/2/09 REPORTED THAT A LITTLE PIECE OF MICHAEL JACKSON'S NEVERLAND RANCH IS PART OF THIS YEAR'S ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR IN PLEASANTON. THE *BALLOON SAMBA RIDE* -- AS IT'S CALLED-- WAS ONE OF FIVE NEVERLAND RIDES PURCHASED BY BUTLER AMUSEMENT LAST YEAR. BUTLER OPERATES THE RIDES FOR THE FAIR. THE BALLON SAMBA IS AT THE FAIR'S CHILDREN'S PARK THROUGH JULY 19TH. HERE'S THE BEST PART. OVER THE JULY FOURTH WEEKEND, ADULTS AND CHILDREN CAN RIDE FOR FREE.. AS A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE POP STAR'S MEMORY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/6/09 REPORTED THAT FROM DEATH... A DOUBLE-LIFE IS SURFACING SURROUNDING NFL STAR STEVE MCNAIR. THE QUARTERBACK WAS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH SATURDAY INSIDE A NASHVILLE CONDO. THE BODY OF HIS ALLEGED 20-YEAR-OLD MISTRESS FOUND BESIDE HIM. THE GUN , USED IN THE KILLING, FOUND UNDER HER BODY. POLICE ARE NOT LOOKING FOR ANY SUSPECTS...AND BELIEVE THE KILLING COULD BE A MURDER SUICIDE. INVESTIGATORS SAY THE TWO HAD BEEN DATING FOR A FEW MONTHS. AND INSIDERS SAY MCNAIR TOLD THE WOMAN HE WAS LEAVING HIS WIFE. A PUBLIC MEMORIAL AND FUNERAL ARE PLANNED FOR LATER THIS WEEK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT A SAN FRANCISCO MAN HAS DIED, WHILE ON VACATION TO OREGON'S COLUMBIA RIVER. HE'D BEEN MISSING SINCE FRIDAY. 48-YEAR OLD *PAUL MANN* WAS ON A PADDLE-BOARDING TRIP WITH FRIENDS, ABOUT 60-MILES EAST OF PORTLAND. EARLY TODAY, A PERSON WALKING ALONG THE RIVER FOUND HIS BODY ON A SANDBAR. IT WASN'T FAR FROM WHERE MANN'S PADDLE AND BOARD WERE FOUND FRIDAY. MANN PROBABLY DROWNED, BUT AN AUTOPSY WILL BE PERFORMED TO CONFIRM THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/8/09 REPORTED THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF MEN ARE GOING UNDER THE KNIFE TO LOOK YOUNGER. AND THAT THE STIGMA OF CARING ABOUT YOUR LOOKS ENOUGH TO GET SURGERY HAS LARGELY FADED. 15-PERCENT OF PLASTIC SURGERY PATIENTS ARE NOW MEN. SOME WANT TO LOOK YOUNGER TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE IN THE WORK FORCE, OTHERS ARE LOOKING TO ATTRACT A HONEY. THE MOST POPULAR PROCEDURE FOR MEN IS LIPOSUCTION. OTHER TOP SURGERIES INCLUDE NOSE JOBS, FACE AND NECK LIFTS... AND SURPRISINGLY BREAST REDUCTIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/10/09 REPORTED THAT IN KEEPING WITH QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DESIRE TO APPEAL TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION, SHE IS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY TO BLOG ONLINE. BUT THERE'S NO PROSPECT OF FINDING OUT WHAT HER MAJESTY HAD FOR BREAKFAST OR THE DUKE'S TASTE IN YOUTUBE VIDEOS. WE'RE TOLD THE BRITISH MONARCHY'S TWITTER FEED WILL BE A NEWS SERVICE, RATHER THAN A PERSONAL VOICE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/13/09 REPORTED THAT THERE'S THERE'S AN AMBER ALERT IN CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA AND NEVADA FOR A MOTHER SUSPECTED OF ABDUCTING HER FOUR CHILDREN. POLICE BELIEVE CLAIRE TOURAND TOOK THE CHILDREN, AFTER FAILING TO SHOW UP FOR A CUSTODY MEETING NEAR RENO. THE CHILDREN RANGE IN AGE FROM FOUR TO NINE YEARS OLD POLICE BELIEVE TOURAND MAY BE HEADED TO MEXICO, IN A WHITE 1998 MERCURY SABLE LICENSE PLATE 3- 6- 9- S- D- H.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/17/09 REPORTED THAT SAN MATEO COUNTY RESCUE CREWS ARE STILL SEARCHING RIGHT NOW FOR A MISSING 55-YEAR-OLD HIKER LAST SEEN YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. DOUGLAS MAY OF SAN CARLOS LEFT HIS HOME AROUND 5-30 TO GO HIKING IN AN AREA HE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH. THAT AREA IS THE SKEGGS POINT AREA OF SAN MATEO COUNTY -- ALONG HIGHWAY 35 ABOUT SIX MILES SOUTH OF HIGHWAY 92.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/29/09 REPORTED THAT THANKS TO SPECIALLY TRAINED SOUTH BAY FIREFIGHTERS ... A THREE YEAR OLD SANTA CLARA BOY .. IS ALIVE AND WELL TONIGHT. FIREFIGHTERS RESPONDING TO A CALL OF A BOY CHOKING ... FOUND THE TODDLER'S PARENT'S TRYING TO GIVE HIM THE HEIMLIC MANUEVER ... AS INSTRUCTED BY THE 9-1-1- DISPATCHER.UNABLE TO CLEAR THE BOY'S THROAT ... HIS FATHER HANDED HIM OVER TO THE FIREFIGHTERS ... WHO BEGAN USING THEIR ADVANCED LIFE SAVING TECHNIQUES. THE SAN JOSE FIREFIGHTERS USED SPECIAL TOOLS - NORMALLY USED IN DOCTOR'S OFFICES - TO CLEAR THE TOY FROM THE BOYS THROAT. SAN JOSE SAYS EVERY ENGINE IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IS EQUIPPED WITH ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/06/09 REPORTED THAT SUMMER ISN'T OVER, BUT A SOUTH BAY GROUP IS LOOKING-AHEAD TO THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR. IT'S A STORY THAT MAKES US ALL, *BAY AREA PROUD. WE MOSTLY HEAR FROM THE FOLKS AT THE *FAMILY GIVING TREE* OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON BUT IN THE SUMMER, THEY'RE BUSY HELPING DISADVANTAGED KIDS GET A HEAD START ON THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR. NBC BAY AREA METEOROLOGIST CRAIG HERRERA HELPED-OUT TODAY, AS VOLUNTEERS LOADED BACKPACKS WITH PENCILS, PAPER, AND OTHER TOOLS THE STUDENTS WILL **NEED TO SUCCEED** THIS FALL. IF **YOU** WANT TO HELP, CHECKOUT THEIR WEBSITE, *FAMILY GIVING TREE-DOT-ORG.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/07/09 REPORTED THAT HUNDREDS OF KIDS-IN-NEED IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY, GOT FREE BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TODAY. THE FOURTH ANNUAL "GIVE-A-WAY" IN SAN JOSE, WAS HOSTED BY THE SANTA CLARA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SURVICES. THE EVENT WAS PAIRED UP WITH A RESOURCE FAIR, WHERE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNTY DEPARTMENTS GAVE PARENTS INFORMATION ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES. PARENTS SAY THE GIVEAWAY TAKES A LOAD OFF THEIR MIND. THE BACKPACKS AND SUPPLIES WERE PAID FOR THROUGH DONATIONS FROM LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SERVICE, FAMILIES NEEDED TO HAVE AN OPEN CASE WITH THE COUNTY'S DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES -- OR SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/07/09 REPORTED THAT THE RECESSION MAY BE TO BLAME FOR THE FIRST DROP IN U-S BIRTHS, SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE DECADE. THERE WERE 4-MILLION, 247-THOUSAND BABIES BORN IN THE U-S, IN 2008, THAT'S NEARLY 2-PERCENT FEWER THAN THE YEAR BEFORE. ANALYSTS SUSPECT THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IS BEHIND THE 'BABY BUST'...WITH PARENTS LOSING JOBS, AND HAVING LESS MONEY TO RAISE CHILDREN. THEY ALSO POINT TO A SLOW-DOWN IN IMMIGRATION. THE LARGEST DECLINE IN BIRTHS

OCCURED RIGHT HERE IN CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA, TWO STATES HIT HARDEST BY THE HOUSING CRISIS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/07/09 REPORTED THAT WOMEN APPARENTLY ARE PROGRAMMED TO NOT GET ALONG WITH THEIR HUSBAND'S MOM. A BRITISH RELATIONSHIP EXPERT SAYS THAT'S THE REASON BEHIND THE AGE-OLD PROBLEM OF FEUDING BETWEEN MOTHERS-IN-LAW AND THEIR SONS' WIVES. DOCTOR TERRI APTER SAYS EVEN IF A WIFE OR GIRLFRIEND WANTED TO LIKE HER IN-LAW, SHE ALREADY HAS AN EXPECTATION THEY WON'T GET ALONG. THE PSYCHOLOGIST ATTRIBUTES THE MUTUAL UNEASE TO BOTH MOTHER AND WIFE TRYING TO ACHIEVE THE SAME POSITION IN THE FAMILY, THAT OF PRIMARY WOMAN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/7/09 REPORTED THAT A PLAYGROUND IN TRACY WAS OFFICIALLY DEDICATED TO SANDRA CANTU TODAY. VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS BUILT THE PLAYGROUND AT THE LITTLE GIRL'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN HER HONOR. THE 8-YEAR-OLD DISAPPEARED FROM INSIDE HER MOBILE HOME PARK MARCH 27TH. HER BODY WAS FOUND IN A SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY IRRIGATION POND, A LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK LATER. SANDRA'S TWO SIBLINGS AND FRIENDS FROM SCHOOL WERE THE FIRST TO USE THE NEW PLAYGROUND.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/7/09 REPORTED THAT THE SISTER OF ONE OF THE BAY AREA-BASED JOURNALISTS DETAINED IN NORTH KOREA - IS TALKING ABOUT HOW THEIR HARROWING ORDEAL. LAURA LING'S SISTER TOLD NBC, THAT THE RESCUE MISSION FOR LAURA AND EUNA LEE - GOT UNDERWAY AFTER A PHONE CALL IN JULY. LAURA TOLD HER FAMILY THEN - THAT NORTH KOREA WOULD BE WILLING TO GRANT AMNESTY, IF FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON WERE THE ONE TO SEEK THEIR RELEASE. LISA LING ALSO SAID HER SISTER IS WEAK FROM MEAGER MEALS - AND HAS TROUBLE EXPRESSING HERSELF. LING SAYS WHILE HER SISTER ISN'T READY TO TALK ABOUT HER ORDEAL YET -- SHE'S PLANNING TO WRITE AN EDITORIAL ON WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH. THE TWO JOURNALISTS WERE SENTENCED TO 12 YEARS IN A HARD LABOR CAMP FOR CROSSING THE BORDER INTO NORTH KOREA, NEARLY FIVE MONTHS AGO. THEY WERE RELEASED THIS WEEK - AFTER CLINTON MET WITH KIM JONG IL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/4/09 REPORTED THAT CALIFORNIA'S MOST NEEDY CHILDREN WON'T LOSE THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE AFTER ALL -- DUE TO A RARE BIPARTISAN DEAL. 600-THOUSAND LOW-INCOME CHILDREN STOOD TO LOSE HEALTH CARE IN NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF DEEP BUDGET CUTS... BUT THIS WEEK A PLAN TO SAVE THE "HEALTHY FAMILIES" PROGRAM PASSED BOTH HOUSES WITH A TWO-THIRDS VOTE -- THANKS LARGELY TO A DEAL BROKERED BY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER KAREN BASS. THE PLAN WILL BE PAID FOR MOSTLY BY A SPECIAL TAX HEALTH INSURERS AGREED TO - WHICH TAKES ADVANTAGE OF STIMULUS MONEY - AND MONEY RAISED BY AN ADVOCACY GROUP. PARENTS WILL PAY ONLY SLIGHTLY HIGHER PREMIUMS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/11/09 REPORTED THAT THE WORLD'S OLDEST KNOWN PERSON, WHO ONCE SAID SHE HAD WON THE GENETIC LOTTERY, HAS DIED. GERTRUDE BAINES DIED AT A NURSING HOME IN LOS ANGELES TODAY AT THE AGE OF 115. THE GEORGIA NATIVE WAS BORN IN 18-94 WHEN THE U-S FLAG STILL HAD 44 STARS AND GROVER CLEVELAND WAS PRESIDENT. SHE HAD OUTLIVED EVERY ONE OF HER RELATIVES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT HEALTH EXPERTS IN THE EAST BAY HAVE A NEW TOOL FOR FIGHTING CHILDHOOD ASTHMA. THE BREATHMOBILE MADE ITS DEBUT THIS MORNING AT THE ANNA YATES

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN EMMERYVILLE. THE 33-FOOT WINNEBAGO IS OUTFITTED AS A MOBILE ASTHMA CLINIC. IT WILL VISIT SCHOOLS PROVIDING ASTHMA TESTING AND TREATMENT. EXPERTS SAY THE EAST BAY HAS HIGHER THAN NORMAL ASTHMA RATES BECAUSE OF DIESEL TRAFFIC IN THE PORT OF OAKLAND. ORGANIZERS SAY THE BREATHMOBILE WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR CHILDREN TO GET CARE. OFFICIALS WITH THE AIR RESOURCES BOARD SAY THEY HOPE TO EVENTUALLY BRANCH OFF TO OTHER BAY AREA COUNTIES WHERE ASTHMA IS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT THOUSANDS OF THE STATE'S NEEDIEST CHILDREN WILL START RECEIVING HEALTH INSURANCE AGAIN TOMORROW NOW THAT THE "HEALTHY FAMILIES" PROGRAM HAS BEEN RESCUED. THE STATE SPONSORED PROGRAM WAS CUT BY NEARLY 200 MILLION DOLLARS THIS SUMMER FORCING FAMILIES TO BE CUT FROM THE PROGRAM. BUT LEGISLATORS RESTORED THE FUNDS. NOW THOSE 88-THOUSAND CHILDREN WHO WERE CUT WILL BE REINSTATED TOMORROW. ORGANIZERS SAY THE PROGRAM HAS SEEN RECORD ENROLLMENT AS PARENTS CONTINUE TO LOSE THEIR JOBS AND THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE.

CRIMES-FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL, LAW & LAW ENFORCEMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/1/09 REPORTED THAT A FORMER DUBLIN DOCTOR WAS SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS TODAY, FOR DRUGGING AND MOLESTING HIS PATIENTS. 40-YEAR-OLD TONY SHIU PLEADED NO CONTEST IN MAY, TO EIGHT FELONIES AND ONE MISDEMEANOR, FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING FOUR MEN, AND A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY. POLICE ARRESTED HIM AT S-F-O LAST YEAR. HE HAD BEEN WORKING AS A TEACHER IN TAIWAN UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, AFTER HE FLED IN SEPTEMBER 2006. INVESTIGATORS SAY THEY FOUND HUNDREDS OF DIGITAL PHOTOS OF SEMI-NAKED UNCONSCIOUS MEN -- SOME OF WHOM MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, IN SHIU'S MEDICAL OFFICE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/1/09 REPORTED THAT THE 21-YEAR OLD MAN ACCUSED OF BEATING A 79-YEAR OLD RICHMOND MAN, WAS IN COURT TODAY ON A NEW CHARGE. THE ASSAULT CASE TURNED INTO *A HOMICIDE* WHEN THE VICTIM, EUVALDO SISNEROS, DIED OF HIS INJURIES YESTERDAY. SUSPECT MICHAEL VILLALOBOS IS ALSO ACCUSED OF ELDER ABUSE. AFTER THE ATTACK, POLICE WENT DOOR TO DOOR WARNING NEIGHBORS, AND CIRCULATED A SKETCH OF THE SUSPECT. VILLALOBOS WAS ARRESTED WHEN AN OFFICER RECOGNIZED HIM FROM THE ARTIST'S DRAWING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/6/09 REPORTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO STREETS ARE SAFER THIS YEAR ACCORDING TO THE MATH. THE CITY'S HOMICIDE RATE FELL TO A NINE-YEAR LOW. DETECTIVES WERE INVESTIGATING 25 HOMICIDES AT THE END OF LAST MONTH, HALF THE NUMBER FROM THIS TIME LAST YEAR. THE DEPARTMENT SAYS PUTTING MORE OFFICERS ON THE STREETS IN HIGH-CRIME AREAS MADE THE DIFFERENCE. BUT THE CITY'S BUDGET DEFICIT COULD TAKE AWAY MORE THAN 80-MILLION DOLLARS FROM PUBLIC SAFETY. SAN FRANCISCO IS FACED WITH A SIX-BILLION DOLLAR BUDGET GAP.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/13/09 REPORTED THAT TEXAS CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE IS CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE SHOOTING DEATH OF A GAY HOUSTON SAILOR - WHILE HE WAS ON DUTY IN CALIFORNIA LAST MONTH. LEE SAYS THE KILLING OF 29-YEAR-OLD NAVY SEAMAN, AUGUST PROVOST WAS "BIZARRE", AND MORE FACTS NEED TO BE UNCOVERED. NAVAL INVESTIGATORS HAVE SAID PROVOST'S BODY WAS BURNED AFTER HE WAS

SHOT TO DEATH JUNE 30, WHILE STANDING GUARD AT CAMP PENDLETON. INVESTIGATORS CALLED HIS DEATH, A RANDOM ACT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/14/09 REPORTED THAT NEW CLUES TONIGHT, ABOUT THE BRUTAL KILLING OF A NOVATO WOMAN, WHO PROSECUTORS SAY WAS BEATEN TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT BY HER EX-BOYFRIEND. 27-YEAR OLD JAMES MITCHELL, THE SON OF LATE PORN MOGUL JIM MITCHELL, WAS ARRAIGNED ON MURDER AND KIDNAPPING CHARGES IN MARIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT. THE FAMILY OF DANIELLE KELLER, WHO WAS KILLED IN THE ATTACK, ALSO ATTENDED TODAY'S HEARING. KELLER'S LAWYER SAYS JUST LAST WEEK, MITCHELL WAS ORDERED TO ATTEND A YEAR-LONG REHAB PROGRAM FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. AND TWO DAYS BEFORE THE KILLING, MITCHELL FOUND OUT A JUDGE HAD GRANTED KELLER CUSTODY OF THEIR CHILD, AND ISSUED A RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST HIM. KELLER'S MOTHER SAYS HER DAUGHTER WAS A VICTIM OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM. MITCHELL IS EXPECTED BACK IN COURT TOMORROW TO ENTER A PLEA.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/21/09 REPORTED THAT A FORMER SAN JOSE COUPLE WHO ALLEGEDLY DUPED MORE THAN 100 HOMEOWNERS IN A REAL ESTATE LOAN MODIFICATION SCAM --- IS UNDER ARREST. THE TWO SUSPECTS RAN OFF TO CANADA WHERE APPARENTLY POLICE SAY THEY WERE DOING THE SAME THING: TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HOMEOWNERS FACING DEFAULT OR FORECLOSURE. INVESTIGATORS SAY THE TWO CHARGED VICTIMS THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS TO MODIFY A LOAN...BUT, OF COURSE, THE LOAN WAS NEVER MODIFIED. IN SOME CASES, SOME VICTIMS WITH MORE THAN ONE PROPERTY LOST SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS. POLICE HAVE IDENTIFIED 129 VICTIMS IN THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY AREA DURING THEIR SIX-MONTH INVESTIGATION AND THERE MAY BE MORE. DETECTIVES HAVE BEEN ON THIS CASE SINCE LATE JANUARY WHEN TWO EMPLOYEES WHO WERE WORKING FOR THE SUSPECTS CAME FOWARD ALONG WITH 15 VICTIMS AND TOLD THE POLICE WHAT WAS GOING ON. WE'VE LEARNED THAT RASHIDIFAR AND DELVECCHIO HAVE BEEN IN CANADA SINCE AT LEAST LAST MAY AND HAVE ASSUMED NEW IDENTITIES TORONTO POLICE SAY THE TWO OPENED UP A SIMILAR OPERATION AND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MORE HOMEOWNERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/24/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA STEPPED DIRECTLY TODAY INTO THE UPROAR OVER A WHITE POLICEMAN'S ARREST OF A BLACK PROFESSOR IN MASSACHUSETTS. THE PRESIDENT MADE A SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE'S DAILY BRIEFING TO SAY HE TALKED TO THE ARRESTING OFFICER BY PHONE TODAY IN AN EFFORT TO DE-ESCALATE AN ESCALATING SITUATION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/29/09 REPORTED THAT AS IS OFTEN THE CASE, THE COVER-UP IS WORSE THAN THE CRIME. THAT'S WHAT FOUR HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA POLICE OFFICERS ARE LEARNING, AFTER ARRESTING 23-YEAR-OLD ALEXANDRA VILLA FOR DRUNK DRIVING.... WHEN ONE OF THEM REAR-ENDED **HER** CAR. THE POLICE DASH-CAM CAPTURES HER SAYING SHE STOPPED SUDDENLY BECAUSE HER CAT WAS TRYING TO JUMP OUT THE WINDOW. THE DASH-CAM ALSO RECORDED THE OFFICERS PLOTTING TO BLAME HER FOR THE CRASH. VILLA'S ATTORNEY SAYS INSTEAD OF JUST FACING THE CONSEQUENCES OF A MINOR FENDER-BENDER, THE OFFICERS NOW FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF PRISON SENTENCES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/01/09 REPORTED THAT THE STATE BORROWED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN PROPERTY TAXES TO HELP CLOSE THE 26 BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT - HANDING FIRE DISTRICTS AN EIGHT PERCENT CUT.

WHILE FIRE DISTRICTS CAN BORROW AGAINST THE STATE'S EVENTUAL REPAYMENTS, UNDER A NEW LAW - MANY BAY AREA FIRE CHIEFS SAY BORROWING WILL ONLY PUT THEIR DISTRICTS DEEPER IN A FINANCIAL HOLE. THEY PLAN ON RAIDING ANY RESERVES -- AND LIMITING NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR THE TIME BEING. THE SHIFT IN FUNDING COMES AS WILDFIRE SEASON IS DUE TO RAMP UP - AFTER THREE DRY WINTERS IN A ROW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/01/09 REPORTED THAT A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL IS IN THE HOSPITAL WITH LIFE-THREATENING INJURIES TONIGHT -- AFTER A SHOOTING IN OAKLAND. POLICE SAY THEY STOPPED A CAR THAT WAS SWERVING BETWEEN LANES AT 34TH AVENUE AND INTERNATIONAL BOULEVARD, NEAR THE FRUITVALE BART STATION -- AROUND 1:30 THIS MORNING. THERE WERE FOUR PEOPLE IN THAT CAR -- AND OFFICERS SAY ONE OF THEM WAS THE 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL, WHO HAD BEEN SHOT. THEY LEARNED THE SHOOTING HAPPENED A BLOCK AWAY, ON 35TH AVENUE. CREWS RUSHED HER TO THE HOSPITAL INVESTIGATORS HAVE NOT MADE ANY ARRESTS -- AND ARE ASKING FOR THE PUBLIC'S HELP TO IDENTIFY A SUSPECT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/01/09 REPORTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO POLICE ARE ALSO MAKING A PLEA FOR THE PUBLIC'S HELP -- IN FINDING A PERSON OF INTEREST IN A HOMICIDE. A MAN WAS FOUND DEAD INSIDE HIS APARTMENT ON CASTRO STREET TUESDAY EVENING. 26-YEAR-OLD DAVID WEHRER (WHERE-ERR) IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SEEN WITH THE VICTIM - AND VISITED THE HOUSE RECENTLY. INVESTIGATORS AREN'T SAYING HOW THE VICTIM DIED -- ONLY THAT THEY'VE DETERMINED THE DEATH WAS A HOMICIDE. WEHRER IS ALSO A SUSPECT IN AN ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY AND CARJACKING TUESDAY AFTERNOON IN THE WEST PORTAL NEIGHBORHOOD. POLICE SAY HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. THEY'RE ASKING ANYONE WITH INFORMATION ON HIS WHEREABOUTS TO CALL HOMICIDE INSPECTORS OR LEAVE AN ANNONYMOUS TIP.

NBC BAY AREA., THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/06/09 REPORTED THAT A 12 YEAR OLD BOY SUFFERED A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE FACE. HE IS LISTED IN CRITICAL BUT STABLE CONDITION HERE AT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. ACCORDING TO POLICE. AT ABOUT 8 O'CLOCK LAST NIGHT FOUR BOYS WERE PLAYING IN THE GARAGE OF THEIR APARTMENT COMPLEX ON THE FOUR HUNDRED BLOCK OF FOOTHILL BLVD NEAR LAKE MERRIT IN OAKLAND. THEY FOUND A 20-GUAGE SAWED OFF SHOTGUN STASHED SOMEWHERE IN THE GARAGE AND POLICE SAY THE BOYS HAD NO IDEA IT WAS LOADED. SO THEY STARTED TO PLAY WITH IT. A TEN YEAR OLD BOY AIMED THE GUN AT HIS TWELVE YEAR OLD FRIEND AND PULLED THE TRIGGER. JUST A SHORT TIME AGO WE TALKED TO A NEIGHBOR WHO KNOWS THE BOYS. SHE EXPRESSED SHOCK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT POLICE ARE STILL EXAMINING THE MYSTERIOUS ITEMS WHICH FORCED SEVERAL PEOPLE TO EVACUATE SAN FRANCISCO'S RICHMOND DISTRICT TODAY. THE SIGHT OF SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING BOTTLES OF AN UNIDENTIFIED LIQUID BROUGHT THE BOMB SQUAD AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM TO TWO HOMES ON 20TH AVENUE NEAR BALBOA... JUST BLOCKS FROM GOLDEN GATE PARK. A PASSER-BY SAW THE BOTTLES, AND WHEN HE NOTICED A THREATENING NOTE, HE CALLED POLICE. THEY SAY THE EVACUATION WAS PRECAUTIONARY... SO FAR, THE ITEMS HAVE NOT BEEN DETONATED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT THE FATHER OF OSCAR GRANT IS SUING BART. OSCAR GRANT JUNIOR FILED THE SUIT FRIDAY. HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING A PRISON SENTENCE FOR MURDER. THE LAWSUIT

SEEKS UNSPECIFIED DAMAGES. GRANT'S UNARMED SON WAS KILLED NEW YEAR'S MORNING BY BART POLICE OFFICER JOHANNES MEHSERLE. MEHSERLE IS OUT ON BAIL AWAITING HIS MURDER TRIAL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT THE RE-APPEARANCE OF JAYCEE DUGARD EIGHTEEN YEARS AFTER SHE WAS KIDNAPPED GIVES THE MOTHER OF ANOTHER MISSING BAY AREA GIRL HOPE. MICHAELA GARECHT WAS KIDNAPPED IN HAYWARD IN 19-88. NOW INVESTIGATORS ARE LOOKING INTO WHETHER THERE'S ANY LINK BETWEEN PHILLIP GARRIDO AND HER ABDUCTION. HER MOTHER-- SHARON MURCH IS WAITING TO HEAR FROM INVESTIGATORS. THIS IS HER STORY-- IN HER OWN WORDS. HAYWARD POLICE SAY THEY ARE STILL ACTIVELY INVESTIGATING MICHAELA'S KIDNAPPING. AND SHARON MURCH HAS A WEBSITE DEVOTED TO HER MISSING DAUGHTER-- WWW.MISSING MICHAELA DOT COM.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/2/09 REPORTED THAT THE MAN ACCUSED OF OPENING FIRE IN WASHINGTON, D-C'S HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND KILLING A SECURITY GUARD WILL REMAIN IN JAIL UNTIL HIS TRIAL. TODAY, IN PERSUADING THE JUDGE TO KEEP JAMES VON BRUNN BEHIND BARS, PROSECUTORS SAID THE 89-YEAR OLD MAN MAY BE FRAIL, BUT HE IS STILL DANGEROUS. VON BRUNN WAS IN A WASHINGTON, D-C COURT IN A WHEELCHAIR FOR HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN PUBLIC SINCE THE DEADLY SHOOTOUT IN JUNE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT A ROUTINE POLICE CALL TURNED INTO AN UNEXPECTED DISCOVERY IN OAKLAND YESTERDAY. GUNS, AMMO AND POT PLANTS. THIS AFTERNOON-- THE O-P-D SHOWED OFF JUST SOME OF THE ELEVEN ASSAULT WEAPONS AND THOUSANDS OF ROUNDS OF AMMO THEY RECOVERED FROM THE APARTMENT. THEY ALSO FOUND BOOKS ON HOW TO CONVERT SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPONS TO FULLY AUTOMATIC. POLICE ARRESTED ONE SUSPECT.

DIVERSITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/2/09 REPORTED THAT IT HAS ONLY BEEN A FEW WEEKS SINCE THE CONTROVERSIAL BAN ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE WAS UPHELD BY THE STATE SUPREME COURT. BUT PROP EIGHT IS ALREADY BACK UNDER THE JUDICIAL SPOTLIGHT. THEODORE OLSON REPRESENTED PRESIDENT BUSH IN THE CASE THAT DECIDED THE 2000 ELECTION...BUSH V GORE...AND HE WENT ON TO WORK AS BUSH'S SOLICITOR GENERAL. BUT OLSON ISN'T TAKING THE CONSERVATIVE POINT OF VIEW WHEN IT COMES TO SAME SEX MARRIAGE AND THE RIGHTS OF HIS FOUR PLAINTIFFS. WELCOME TO "PERRY VERSUS SCHWARZENEGGER"...A FEDERAL CASE WHICH ULTIMATELY MAY LAND THE BALLOT MEASURE THAT BANNED SAME SEX MARRIAGE IN THE HANDS OF THE U-S SUPREME COURT JUSTICES. IN COURT TODAY BOTH SIDES AGREED TO A SPEEDY...YET COMPREHENSIVE TRIAL...THAT WILL CREATE A RECORD FOR THE FUTURE APPEALS THAT WILL INEVITABLY FOLLOW. JUDGE VAUGHN WALKER DECIDED NOT TO GRANT A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION TODAY THAT WOULD'VE ALLOWED GAY COUPLES TO MARRY WHILE THE CASE WINDS ITS WAY THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM. WALKER SAYS ALLOWING THE MARRIAGES TO START AGAIN WOULD ONLY BRING THE SAME UNCERTAINTY THAT COUPLES FELT BACK IN 2004 WHEN THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMED MARRIAGES THAT WERE LATER NULLIFIED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/3/09 REPORTED THAT THE COLOR OF YOUR HAIR MAY DETERMINE HOW MUCH PAIN YOU FEEL! WE ALWAYS THOUGHT CONAN O'BRIEN WAS A SENSITIVE GUY-- NOW WE'RE LEARNING IT'S GENETIC! THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION REPORTS

REDHEADS TEND TO HAVE MORE PAINFUL EXPERIENCES AT THE DENTIST MEANING THEY'RE TWICE AS LIKELY AS BLONDES OR BRUNETTES, TO AVOID DENTAL CARE. THE RESEARCH SAYS REDHEADS CARRY A VARIANT OF THE GENE WHICH DETERMINES SKIN, HAIR, AND EYE COLOR AND IT ALSO CARRIES A GREATER SUSCEPTIBILITY TO PAIN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/05/09 REPORTED THAT A NEW FIELD POLL SHOWS CALIFORNIANS HAVE DRASTICALLY SHIFTED THEIR VIEWS ON CONTROVERSIAL SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE LAST THREE DECADES. THE POLL FOUND THAT STATE VOTERS HAVE BECOME FAR MORE TOLERANT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE - AND ABORTION RIGHTS. CALIFORNIANS NOW SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE 49 TO 44 PERCENT, COMPARED TO OPPOSING IT 62 TO 31 PERCENT IN 1977. STATE VOTERS ALSO SUPPORT LEGALIZED ABORTION AND ABORTION RIGHTS 70 TO 20 PERCENT TODAY - COMPARED TO JUST 51 TO 41 PERCENT IN 1975. THE CHANGES ARE BEING CREDITED IN LARGE PART TO THE GROWING RANKS OF INDEPENDENT VOTERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/06/09 REPORTED THAT THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED A PLAN TODAY - TO OVERHAUL ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DETENTION PRACTICES. THE PLAN SUGGESTS CONSOLIDATING DETAINEES FROM 350 JAILS IN PLACES MORE SUITABLE FOR NON-CRIMINALS. ONE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF THE PLAN - IS THAT HUNDREDS OF DETAINEES BEING HELD AT A TEXAS PRISON DEEMED INHUMANE BY ACTIVISTS - WILL BE MOVED TO OTHER FACILITIES. IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS SUPPORTERS CHEERED THE PLAN. OTHERS QUESTIONED WHETHER THE ADMINISTRATION WAS RETURNING TO POLICIES THAT WOULD ALLOW IMMIGRANTS TO DISAPPEAR. BOTH SIDES **DID** AGREE -- THAT THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO GO A STEP FARTHER - AND WRITE THE CHANGES INTO LAW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT IT'S A KEY WEEK FOR THE SAME SEX MARRIAGE BATTLE. "EQUALITY CALIFORNIA" WILL ANNOUNCE ON WEDNESDAY WHETHER IT WILL ASK VOTERS TO REPEAL PROP-8 IN NOVEMBER 20-10 OR WAIT UNTIL 20-12 OR BEYOND. THEN THURSDAY, THE LIBERAL ONLINE ALLIANCE "COURAGE CAMPAIGN", WHICH IS WORKING TOWARDS A VOTE IN 2010, WILL ANNOUNCE WHETHER IT MET A 200-THOUSAND DOLLAR GRANT CHALLENGE FOR PRELIMINARY CAMPAIGN WORK. THE BAN ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE PASSED 52-TO-48 PERCENT IN THE NOVEMBER 2008 ELECTION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/12/09 REPORTED THAT A KEY GROUP BEHIND GAY MARRIAGE HAS DECIDED TO POSTPONE ANY IMMEDIATE ATTEMPT TO OVERTURN CALIFORNIA'S SAME SEX MARRIAGE BAN. THE GROUP SAYS THE DELAY IMPROVES ITS CHANCES OF OVERTURNING PROP 8 IN THE LONG RUN. WHEN CALIFORNIA'S BAN ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE PASSED LAST NOVEMBER... SUPPORTERS OF GAY MARRIAGE VOWED TO FIGHT BACK. BUT SINCE THEN... THE QUESTION HAS BEEN "WHEN?" TODAY, EQUALITY CALIFORNIA... ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROPONENTS OF GAY MARRIAGE ANNOUNCED IT WOULD WAIT UNTIL 2012 TO ASK VOTERS TO OVERTURN CALIFORNIA'S BAN ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE. EQUALITY DIRECTOR GEOFF KORRS SAYS THE DECISION WILL GIVE SUPPORTERS MORE TIME TO RAISE MONEY... AND REACH CONSERVATIVE VOTERS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAYS MORE YOUNG SAME SEX SUPPORTERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN 2012. BUT MANY IN THE GAY RIGHTS COMMUNITY, SAY THE TIME TO GO THE BALLOT IS 2010. ADVOCATE SETH FOWLER SAYS SAME SEX MARRIAGE SUPPORTERS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR MOMENTUM FROM LAST YEAR'S ELECTION. BUT GAY MARRIAGE OPPONENT RANDY THOMASON DOESN'T BELIEVE TIMING WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CALIFORNIAN VOTERS. EQUALITY CALIFORNIA SAYS IT WILL SPEND THE NEXT 37 MONTHS TRYING TO REACH CONSERVATIVE VOTERS -- A MOVE THEY SAY WILL HELP A SAME SEX BALLOT MEASURE, WHETHER IT'S SOONER ****OR**** LATER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT SAME SEX COUPLES ARE HEADING TO VERMONT WHICH IS NOW THE FIFTH STATE TO LEGALIZE SAME SEX MARRIAGES. A NEW YORK COUPLE TIED THE KNOT ONE MINUTE AFTER THE LAW WENT INTO EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT. BILL SLIMBACK AND BOB SULLIVAN HAVE BEEN TOGETHER 17-YEARS. VERMONT JOINS MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT AND IOWA WHICH ALSO ALLOW SAME SEX COUPLES TO MARRY. NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LAW TAKES EFFECT JANUARY FIRST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/16/09 REPORTED THAT FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER IS CALLING REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN JOE WILSON'S OUTBURST DURING PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HEALTH CARE REFORM SPEECH LAST WEEK AN ACT "BASED ON RACISM". WILSON SHOUTED "YOU LIE!" AS OBAMA TALKED ABOUT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/21/09 REPORTED THAT A 27-YEAR-OLD MAN FROM TURKEY OFFICIALLY BECAME THE WORLD'S TALLEST MAN TODAY. SULTAN (SOLE-TAN) KOSEN (KO-SENN) APPEARED ON THE "TODAY" SHOW THIS MORNING, TOWERING OVER HOSTS MATT LAUER AND MEREDITH VIEIRA. THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS HONORED KOSEN WITH THE DISTINCTION OF BEING 'HEAD AND SHOULDERS' ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE. HIS HEIGHT IS THE RESULT OF A PITUITARY CONDITION, WHICH CAUSED HIM TO GROW UNCONTROLLABLY. BESIDES STARES, BEING THAT TALL BRINGS PROBLEMS. KOSEN USES A CANE TO RELIEVE STRESS ON HIS KNEES. HE SAYS HE HOPES THE PUBLICITY HELPS HIM FIND A GIRLFRIEND.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/23/09 REPORTED WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE INTERNATIONAL PROTOCOL WITH SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY? SOMETHING PRETTY SURREAL, AS IT TURNS OUT. WHEN THE DALAI LAMA WAS INTRODUCED TO THE MAYOR OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THE MAYOR GREETED THE SPIRITUAL LEADER AS THOUGH HE WERE CAROL CHANNING...SINGING-OUT "HELLO DOLLY", FROM THE BROADWAY MUSICAL. THEN HE TRIED A FIST BUMP... AS THE FAMED MAN OF PEACE IMPROVISED... EVEN ADDING HIS OWN TWIST. TO HIS CREDIT, THE DALAI LAMA SEEMED AMUSED BY THE ENCOUNTER.

EDUCATION

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/8/09 REPORTED THAT HIGHER FEES, FEWER STUDENTS AND MORE LAYOFFS ALL PART OF A NEW, CAL-STATE PLAN TO CLOSE A MASSIVE BUDGET DEFICIT. THE 23-CAMPUS SYSTEM IS FACING A PROJECTED 584-MILLION DOLLAR SHORTFALL THIS FISCAL YEAR. C-S-U OFFICIALS ARE FLOATING A PLAN TO FURLOUGH NEARLY ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYEES FOR TWO DAYS A MONTH, AND REDUCE PAYROLL BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT. ALSO BEING CONSIDERED.. STUDENT FEE INCREASES BEYOND THE TEN PERCENT HIKE APPROVED BY TRUSTEES IN MAY. THE BOARD WILL VOTE ON THE PLAN LATER THIS MONTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/16/09 REPORTED THAT TRYING TO RECOVER FROM AN 813-MILLION-DOLLAR BUDGET SHORTFALL, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA'S BOARD OF REGENTS OK'D AN EMERGENCY BUDGET PLAN TODAY, BUT IT'S BAD NEWS FOR THOUSANDS OF U-C EMPLOYEES. EIGHTY PERCENT OF U-C'S 180-THOUSAND WORKERS WILL NOW HAVE TO TAKE AS MANY AS 26 FURLOUGH DAYS A YEAR WHICH AMOUNTS TO 4 TO 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN SALARAY. SOME EMPLOYEES WILL BE EXEMPT FROM FURLOUGHS, INCLUDING STUDENT WORKERS AND THOSE WORKING AT THE LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LAB.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/22/09 REPORTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ARE WAITING TO FIND OUT WHICH CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE THIS FALL, AND WHICH HAVE BEEN CANCELED... DUE TO CALIFORNIA'S BUDGET PROBLEMS. C-S-U SAN FRANCISCO HAS INFORMED STUDENTS THAT SOME FALL CLASSES WILL BE ELIMINATED BY STATE BUDGET CUTS. MANY STUDENTS WHO SIGNED-UP FOR COURSES DURING EARLY REGISTRATION, AREN'T SURE WHICH ONES WILL STAY ON THE SCHEDULE. THIS FOLLOWS YESTERDAY'S NEWS THAT TRUSTEES APPROVED A 20-PERCENT FEE INCREASE. SENIOR JENNIFER LEE LEARNED A CLASS REQUIRED FOR HER TEACHING DEGREE HAS BEEN CANCELED. LEE SAYS SHE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE TEACHING COURSES, UNTIL SHE COMPLETES THE CANCELLED CLASS. SHE NOW WORRIES SHE'LL HAVE TO SPEND AN EXTRA YEAR IN SCHOOL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/24/09 REPORTED THAT YOU SHOULD TOSS AWAY THAT REJECTION LETTER. YOU CAN STILL GET AN IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION IF YOU HAVE AN I-PHONE OR AN I-POD. YALE UNIVERSITY IS OFFERING COURSES AT NO CHARGE THROUGH I-TUNES. YALE AND APPLE PARTNERED-UP A COUPLE YEARS AGO .. BUT ONLY SELECTED LECTURES WERE MADE AVAILABLE. NOW COMPLETE COURSES ARE BEING OFFERED. THERE ARE AT LEAST 13 TO CHOOSE FROM. THE COURSES ALSO CAN BE FOUND ON YOU TUBE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/27/09 REPORTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME, IT'S THE LION AS PENN STATE TAKES THE TITLE OF THE TOP PARTY SCHOOL IN AMERICA. THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA WAS PUSHED TO NUMBER TWO. THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI CAME IN THIRD. AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA RANKED FOURTH. U-C SANTA BARBARA CAME IN AT NUMBER 10. AND COMING IN LAST... AGAIN... BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY IN UTAH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/05/09 REPORTED THAT THE NEW STATE BUDGET IS AN ENORMOUS HARDSHIP FOR CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS -- AND CERTAINLY FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THOSE SCHOOLS. TODAY'S SUMMER VACATION PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVERNOR AND LAWMAKERS WAS A MASSIVE CROWD. 18 BILLION DOLLARS IS WHAT THE GOVERNOR AND LAWMAKERS SLASHED FROM EDUCATION. TODAY, SCHOOL WORKERS LOUDLY VOICED THEIR ANGER THEY'RE THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CLEAN THE CLASSROOMS AND ANSWER THE PHONES. THEY'RE ANGRY, AND THEY BROUGHT AN ALLY IN THE STATE SCHOOLS CHIEF. THEIR JABS WERE AIMED AT THE GOVERNOR. ALSO ON THE WORKERS' BULLSEYE--- LAWMAKERS, LIKE ASSEMBLYMAN JOE COTO, WHO WALKED OUT OF THE STATE BUILDING TO WATCH AND LISTEN. HE LATER ESCORTED TWO SCHOOLKIDS TO HIS OFFICE. THE STUDENTS CARRIED THOUSANDS OF POST CARDS FROM THE SCHOOL WORKERS, TO GIVE TO LAWMAKERS. THE FORMER EDUCATOR PROMISED TO MAKE SURE EVERY LAWMAKER IN SACRAMENTO GETS A COPY OF THE POST CARDS, AND HE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE STUDENTS, WHO BEGAN COLLECTING PENNIES TO HELP SAVE SCHOOLS. STATE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JACK O'CONNEL SAID THE BUDGET DOESN'T FUND ANY NEW TEXTBOOKS UNTIL THE YEAR 2016. SO STUDENTS WON'T BE ABLE TO READ, FOR INSTANCE, ABOUT PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S HISTORIC ELECTION, UNTIL THEN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/06/09 REPORTED THAT CALIFORNIA'S INTENSE MONEY PROBLEMS HAVE FILTERED DOWN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. THE STATE WILL PAY-BACK THE MONEY OVER THREE-YEARS WITH INTEREST, AND WILL SPEND IT HELPING TO PAY FOR STALLED BUILDING PROJECTS AT SEVERAL U-C CAMPUSES. ONE UNION REPRESENTATIVE CALLS THE LOAN "SURREAL" ASKING WHY U-C FURLOUGHED EMPLOYEES AND DEMANDED PAY-CUTS, IF IT HAS THAT MUCH CASH? SO THE UNION WHICH REPRESENTS MANY U-C WORKERS IS ASKING WHY THE U-C SYSTEM IS LENDING THE STATE NEARLY 200 MILLION DOLLARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/7/09 REPORTED THAT DESPITE BIG CUTS AND LAYOFFS IN THE U-C SYSTEM, TOP U-C EXECUTIVES WILL GET PAY RAISES. ON THE SAME DAY THE U-C BOARD OF REGENTS CUT 813- MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE BUDGET, IT ALSO APPROVED PAY RAISES AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR MORE THAN 24 EXECUTIVES. A U-C-S-F SPOKESPERSON SAYS THREE PEOPLE ON HER CAMPUS WHO GOT BIG PAY RAISES, TOOK ON NEW DUTIES - AND DESERVED THE ADDED COMPENSATION. CRITICS - INCLUDING JANITORS AND PHYSICIANS WHOSE SALARIES WERE SLASHED - SAY THEY'RE PAID LESS YET THEY DO MORE WORK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/08/09 REPORTED THAT HUNDREDS OF NEEDY KIDS IN SAN FRANCISCO WERE ABLE TO SHOP FOR BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES - FOR FREE TODAY. THE SALVATION ARMY WRAPPED UP ITS 10TH ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY IN THE SOUTH OF MARKET AREA THIS AFTERNOON. ABOUT 15-HUNDRED KIDS FROM AGE FIVE TO SIXTEEN TOOK PART IN THE EVENT. ORGANIZERS SAY IT'S IMPORTANT FOR KIDS TO FEEL EQUIPPED TO START SCHOOL -- EVEN IT IT'S JUST THE BASICS. INDIVIDUALS AND BAY AREA COMPANIES DONATED THE SUPPLIES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT GRAMMY AWARD WINNING RECORDING ARTISTS "THE BLACK EYED PEAS" ARE WORKING TO GIVE UNDERSERVED BAY AREA YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES TO START CAREERS IN DIGITAL MEDIA. TODAY THE BLACK EYED PEAS OPENED THE FIRST INTEGRATED "PEA-POD ADOBE YOUTH VOICES ACADEMY" AT THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB IN REDWOOD CITY. ANOTHER ACADEMY IS OPENING IN OAKLAND. THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE MUSICIANS AND "ADOBE SYSTEMS INCORPORATED" FOCUSES ON GIVING YOUTH ACCESS TO MULTI-MEDIA PRODUCTION TOOLS.... FOR VIDEO, DANCE, PHOTOGRAPHY, MUSIC AND ART -- TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND MAKE A CAREER. BOTH THE REDWOOD CITY AND OAKLAND ACADEMIES ARE SCHEDULED TO START OFFERING SERVICES STARTING IN THE FALL FOR YOUTH UP TO AGE 19. AN ESTIMATED 200 BAY AREA YOUNGSTERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE TRAINED IN THE MULTI-MEDIA FIELDS EACH YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/10/09 REPORTED THAT TWO BAY AREA UNIVERSITIES GOT A TOUGH LESSON IN ECONOMICS TODAY. THIS WAS THE FIRST FURLOUGH-DAY FOR EMPLOYEES AT SAN JOSE STATE AND CAL-STATE EAST BAY. AT THE HAYWARD CAMPUS, THE ELECTRIC SIGN BROADCAST THE MESSAGE. STUDENTS WHO WENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OR THE BOOKSTORE ALSO FOUND SIGNS ON THE DOORS EXPLAINING THEY WERE CLOSED BECAUSE OF STATE BUDGET CUTS. ALONG WITH THE FURLOUGHS, THE C-S-U SYSTEM IS NOT ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER AND SPRING TERMS AND IS INCREASING STUDENT FEES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/2/09 REPORTED THAT MORE CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOLERS ARE PASSING THE EXIT EXAM. STATE SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT JACK O'CONNELL SAYS STATEWIDE, 79-POINT-2 PERCENT OF TENTH GRADERS PASSED THE ENGLISH PORTION OF THE TEST IN ONE SITTING -- UP MORE THAN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR. AND 79-POINT-8 PERCENT OF STUDENTS PASSED IN MATH... UP MORE THAN FOUR PERCENT FROM THE CLASS OF 2008. PASSING THE TEST IS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/2/09 REPORTED THAT STANFORD IS LAYING OFF HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE BECAUSE OF A SHARP DROP IN THE VALUE OF ITS ENDOWMENT. 412-EMPLOYEES HAVE ALREADY BEEN LAID OFF, AND THE UNIVERSITY IS PREPARING TO LAYOFF AND ADDITIONAL 60-WORKERS BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE UNIVERSITY IS ALSO FREEZING SALARIES AND HIRING ... AND

SUSPENDING SOME CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. STANFORD'S ENDOWMENT, WHICH FUNDS A LARGE PORTION OF ITS BUDGET, IS EXPECTED TO PLUMMET 30-PERCENT THIS YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/16/09 REPORTED THAT SURPRISINGLY THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE MOSTLY UC EMPLOYEES, NOT STUDENTS. THEY WERE PROTESTING THE PROPOSED 30 PERCENT FEE HIKE FOR STUDENTS AND SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THEIR OWN WORK FURLOUGHS. BUT WHEN THEIR PROTESTS GOT A LITTLE TOO DISRUPTIVE, THE POLICE STEPPED IN. SHOUTING OUR UNIVERSITY THE PROTESTORS GOT A LITTLE HEATED AS THEY POINTED AND CHANTED. THE ENTIRE MEETING HAD TO BE STOPPED WHILE POLICE HANDCUFFED 14 PEOPLE AND ESCORTED THEM OUTSIDE. THEY WERE CITED AND RELEASED. THEIR MAIN GRIPE WAS AGAINST THE REGENTS PROPOSED PLAN TO DRASTICALLY INCREASE STUDENT FEES AND FORCE UC WORKERS TO TRIM THEIR PAYCHECKS. BUT ADMINISTRATORS BLAME THE STATE SAYING IT HAS NOT MADE HIGHER EDUCATION A PRIORITY. THE DEMONSTRATORS WERE LATER RELEASED AND THE MEETING RESUMED. THE REGENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON THE PROPOSED FEE INCREASES IN NOVEMBER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/22/09 REPORTED THAT BACK TO SCHOOL AT BAY AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGES MEANT LONG WAITING LISTS-- TO GET INTO CRITICAL CLASSES. AND IN MANY CASES-- STUDENTS ARE OUT OF LUCK. AT DE-ANZA COLLEGE IN CUPERTINO-- MORE THAN 12-THOUSAND STUDENTS ARE ON WAITING LISTS. AND DE-ANZA'S PRESIDENT SAID THAT AS OF YESTERDAY-- 23-HUNDRED STUDENTS WERE NOT ABLE TO REGISTER FOR A SINGLE CLASS. JOHN SWENSSON HAS TAUGHT ENGLISH AT DE-ANZA FOR TWENTY YEARS. HE'S HAD TO TURN AWAY MORE THAN A DOZEN STUDENTS. STATE BUDGET CUTS FORCED DE-ANZA TO CUT FIVE PERCENT OF ITS CLASSES-- BUT AT THE SAME TIME ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED.

ENVIRONMENT

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT DESPITE ITS FAMOUS LACK OF SUNSHINE, SAN FRANCISCO HAS BECOME THE STATE'S LEADING SOLAR CITY. WITH MORE SOLAR ROOFS **PER CAPITA**, THAN L-A OR SAN DIEGO. MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM REPORTED THE GOOD NEWS TODAY, AS HE ANNOUNCED THE CITY'S THREE NEWEST HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTIES.. ARE ALL GETTING SOLAR ROOFTOPS. NOT ONLY IS IT A GREEN SOLUTION, THE LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS WILL PAY LESS FOR THEIR POWER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/24/09 REPORTED THAT A NEW WAY TO BUILD HOUSES INVITES YOU TO GO GREEN AND SAVE SOME GREEN. A SANTA CLARA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN AWARDED THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DESIGN AWARDED BY THE U-S GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL. IT LOOKS DECEPTIVELY TYPICAL, BUT USES HIDDEN TECHNOLOGY TO SAVE YOU MONEY AND KEEP THE AIR AROUND YOU CLEAN. DESIGN WILL BE USED AS A MODEL FOR OTHER CITIES TO USE WHEN THEY BUILD NEW HOUSES. THE UNITS, WHICH ARE ALREADY LEASED, WILL SAVE TENANTS MONEY, BECAUSE THEY USE SEVENTY PERCENT LESS ENERGY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/28/09 REPORTED THAT PEOPLE LIVING IN WEST OAKLAND COULD SOON BREATHE A LITTLE EASIER. A NEW PROGRAM IS TARGETING TRUCK EMISSIONS IN THE PORT OF OAKLAND. MARGARET GORDON LIVES MORE THAN A MILE FROM THE PORT OF OAKLAND. BUT SHE'S WELL AQUAINTED WITH ITS POLLUTION. AIR QUALITY MANAGERS SAY EVERY DAY, WEST

OAKLAND RESIDENTS SUFFER THE COLLATERAL DAMAGE OF THE NATION'S FOURTH BUSIEST PORT. BUT TODAY AIR QUALITY MANAGERS KICKED OFF A NEW PROGRAM AIMED AT SLASHING TRUCK EMISSIONS IN THE PORT. THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT WILL OFFER 22 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS TO HELP TRUCKING COMPANIES CLEAN UP THEIR ACT. THE AIR DISTRICT HOPES TO RETROFIT A THOUSAND TRUCKS BY THE END OF THE YEAR. SOME DRIVERS WHO'VE INSTALLED THE FILTERS, SAY THE DIFFERENCE IS DRAMATIC. ON JANUARY FIRST... A NEW STATE REGULATION WILL REQUIRE ALL TRUCKS WORKING THE PORT TO MEET STRICT EMISSION STANDARDS. BUT SOME WARN CONSUMERS WILL ULTIMATELY PAY THE BILL. THE AIR DISTRICT SAYS IT IS WORKING WITH TRUCKING COMPANIES TO MEET THE JANUARY FIRST DEADLINE. A DATE ALREADY ON MARGARET GORDON'S CALENDAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/29/09 REPORTED THAT LAST YEAR, STATE BEACHES WERE CLOSED A TOTAL OF FOUR THOUSAND DAYS BECAUSE OF CONTAMINATION. TODAY, THE NATURAL RESOURCE DEFENSE COUNCIL RELEASED A REPORT CARD OF THE NATION'S BEACHES. WHILE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BEACHES LIKE NEWPORT AND LAGUNA EARNED FIVE STARS... BAY AREA BEACHES LIKE OCEAN AND BAKER BEACH EARNED ONLY TWO. THE DEFENSE COUNCIL SAYS CALIFORNIA'S BUDGET CRISIS HAS LED TO CUTBACKS IN WATER QUALITY MONITORING ON THE STATES' BEACHES. THEY SAY THAT'S MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO GAUGE THE IMPACT OF STORM RUNOFF AND SEWAGE OVERFLOWS. RESEARCHERS SAY MONITORING WILL PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN THE FUTURE. ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE PRESSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO FUND MORE WATER MONITORING.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/30/09 REPORTED THAT SAN FRANCISCO'S EFFORTS TO TURN THE HUNTER'S POINT SHIPYARD INTO A GREEN TECH MECCA GOT A BIG BOOST TODAY...FROM THE UNITED NATIONS. MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT A UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT CENTER DEDICATED TO GLOBAL WARMING AND GREEN TECHNOLOGY WILL BE THE ANCHOR FOR THE 2.5 MILLION SQUARE-FOOT DEVELOPMENT. NEWSOM SAYS 197 BUSINESSES HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP TO JOIN THE PROJECT. THE BUSINESS WILL MOVE INTO THE SHIPYARD-CANDLESTICK POINT AREA .. BRINGING THOUSANDS OF GREEN-COLLAR JOBS. THE PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT STILL INCLUDE A 25-ACRE PARCEL SET ASIDE FOR A STADIUM FOR THE 49'ERS - IF THE TEAM REMAINS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/3/09 THAT RIGHT NOW FIREFIGHTERS IN MONTEREY COUNTY ARE TRYING TO CONTROL TWO GROWING WILDFIRES BURNING VERY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER. THE "SAM JONES FIRE" HAS BURNED 22-HUNDRED ACRES AT 'FORT HUNTER LIGGET'.. WHILE THE "PONDEROSA FIRE" HAS BURNED MORE THAN 350 ACRES, IN THE NEARBY LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST. FIREFIGHTERS CAUGHT A BREAK ON THE PONDEROSA FIRE TODAY, WHEN THE MARINE LAYER SLOWED WINDS. BUT STILL NO CONTAINMENT. THE 'SAM JONES FIRE' WAS AT ABOUT 75 PERCENT CONTAINED BUT IT JUMPED FIRE LINES, AND IS ALSO AT ZERO CONTAINMENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/3/09 THAT THERE IS NO TSUNAMI THREAT TO THE WEST COAST AND HAWAII, AFTER A SERIES OF POWERFUL EARTHQUAKES ROCKED MEXICO'S BAJA PENINSULA TODAY. THE U-S GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SAYS A 5-POINT-8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE STRUCK JUST BEFORE 11 A-M, IN THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA, SOME 330-MILES SOUTHEAST OF TIJUANA. FOLLOWED FIVE MINUTES LATER BY A MAGNITUDE 6-POINT-9 EARTHQUAKE. THE SHAKING WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO PROMPT THE BRIEF EVACUATION OF A HIGH-RISE BUILDING IN PHOENIX... AND RATTLE NERVES IN SAN DIEGO. GEOLOGISTS SAY THE SERIES OF FOUR QUAKE - ALL WITHIN 45-MINUTES OF EACH OTHER - DID LITTLE DAMAGE, BECAUSE THEY WERE CENTERED SO FAR OFFSHORE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/03/09 REPORTED THAT THERE IS NO TSUNAMI THREAT TO THE WEST COAST AND HAWAII, AFTER A SERIES OF POWERFUL EARTHQUAKES ROCKED MEXICO'S BAJA PENINSULA TODAY. THE U-S GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SAYS A 5-POINT-8 MAGNITUDE QUAKE STRUCK JUST BEFORE 11 A-M, IN THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA, AND SOME 330-MILES SOUTHEAST OF TIJUANA. FOLLOWED FIVE MINUTES LATER BY A MAGNITUDE 6-POINT-9 EARTHQUAKE. THE SHAKING WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO PROMPT THE BRIEF EVACUATION OF A HIGH-RISE BUILDING IN PHOENIX... AND RATTLE NERVES IN SAN DIEGO. GEOLOGISTS SAY THE SERIES OF FOUR QUAKE - ALL WITHIN 45-MINUTES OF EACH OTHER - DID LITTLE DAMAGE, BECAUSE THEY WERE CENTERED SO FAR OFFSHORE

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/03/09 REPORTED THAT A NEW REPORT OUT TODAY, SAYS NO MATTER WHAT STEPS CALIFORNIA TAKES TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING, THE STATE HAS TO BE READY. THE "CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY" SAYS THE STATE NEEDS TO START PREPARING FOR HOTTER WEATHER AND RISING SEA LEAVELS. THE REPORT RECOMMENDS COMMUNITIES RETHINK FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN LOW-LYING COASTAL AREAS, REINFORCE LEVEES.. AND BETTER CONSERVE WATER SUPPLIES. IT ALSO RECOMMENDS CITIES AND COUNTIES OFFER INCENTIVES, TO ENCOURAGE PROPERTY OWNERS IN HIGH-RISK AREAS FOR FLOODING AND RISING SEA LEVELS, TO RELOCATE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/7/09 THAT A SO-CALLED "MARINE HIGHWAY" IS IN THE WORKS -- TO HELP CUT DOWN ON POLLUTION AT THE PORT OF OAKLAND. THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT WANTS TO MOVE NEARLY HALF OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS FROM STOCKTON TO THE PORT OF OAKLAND, FROM TRUCKS TO BARGES. THE BARGES WILL BE PULLED BY LOW-EMISSION TUGBOATS. THE "MARINE HIGHWAY" IS EXPECTED TO ELIMINATE NEARLY 5-THOUSAND TRUCK TRIPS WEEKLY ON BAY AREA HIGHWAYS - AND 15 TONS OF DIESEL POLLUTION EACH YEAR. THE PLAN IS DUE TO GO INTO EFFECT NEXT SUMMER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT A POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE ROCKED EASTERN AND CENTRAL JAPAN EARLY TUESDAY MORNING-- RATTLING BUILDINGS AND KNOCKING THINGS OFF SHELVES. IT MEASURED A MAGNITUDE SIX-POINT-SIX-- BUT CAUSED ONLY MINOR INJURIES AND DAMAGE. TRAINS HAVE BEEN HALTED AND TWO NUCLEAR REACTORS HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN FOR SAFETY CHECKS. ABOUT 15 MINUTES EARLIER-- ANOTHER HUGE QUAKE -- MEASURING SEVEN-POINT SIX MAGNITUDE -- HIT THE INDIAN OCEAN-- PROMPTING A TSUNAMI WARNING. IT HAS SINCE BEEN LIFTED. THE U-S GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SAID THE QUAKE WAS CENTERED ABOUT 160 MILES NORTH OF PORT BLAIR IN INDIA'S ADAMAN ISLANDS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT TROPICAL STORM FELICIA IS CLOSING IN ON HAWAII AT THIS HOUR. YOU'RE LOOKING AT SATELLITE IMAGERY OF THE STORM. IT'S JUST TO THE EAST OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. PEOPLE ON HAWAII'S BIG ISLAND WERE VISITING HARDWARE STORES AND STOCKING UP ON SUPPLIES. THE STORM IS EXPECTED TO MOVE THROUGH THE ISLANDS TOMORROW. FELICIA HAS BEEN DOWNGRADED TO A TROPICAL STORM, BUT COULD STILL BRING HIGH SURF AND FLASH FLOOD WARNINGS. COINCIDENTALLY, FLOODWATERS FROM A TYPHOON IN TAIWAN SWEEP AWAY AN ENTIRE BUILDING. TAIWAN T-V SHOWED THE LEANING BUILDING COLLAPSE AS THE STRONG CURRENT SWALLOWED IT UP IN MINUTES. AUTHORITIES SAID THEY BELIEVED IT HAD BEEN EVACUATED BEFORE IT COLLAPSED. BUT NEARBY - AND JUST A SHORT TIME LATER - A LANDSLIDE MAY HAVE BURIED AS MANY AS 400 PEOPLE ALIVE. THE SEARCH IS ON RIGHT NOW FOR ANY SURVIVORS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPLEX IN SAN FRANCISCO'S JAPAN-TOWN, IS UNDERGOING A HUGE FACE-LIFT. THE SEVEN BUILDINGS WHICH MAKE-UP *NIHON-MACHI* TERRACE ON SUTTER STREET WERE BUILT IN THE 1970S, BUT THEY QUICKLY BECAME OUTDATED. THE 25-MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION USES GREENER BUILDING TECHNIQUES, MEANING THE RESIDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM HEALTHIER, MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY EFFICIENT LIVING. HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI PRAISED THE RESIDENTS AT TODAY'S EVENT. SOME FOUR HUNDRED FAMILIES LIVE IN THE COMPLEX, ALONG WITH MANY SENIORS ON FIXED INCOMES. CONSTRUCTION SHOULD FINISH BY FALL OF NEXT YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT EAST OF LOS ANGELES... GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY TODAY, WHERE TWO WILDFIRES ARE THREATENING NEARLY 3-THOUSAND HOMES. THE GOVERNOR TOURED THE DEVASTATION LEFT BEHIND FROM THE PENDLETON AND OAK GLEN FIRES, WHICH HAVE BURNED ABOUT 16-HUNDRED ACRES. EACH FIRE IS ABOUT 45 PERCENT CONTAINED TONIGHT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/18/09 REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNOR TOURED A SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BIO-FUELS PLANT TODAY - COMMENDING THE COMPANY FOR SOME INNOVATIVE PRACTICES. "SOLAZYME INCORPORATED" WAS RECENTLY AWARDED CONTRACTS WORTH MILLIONS OF DOLLARS - TO PRODUCE BIOFUEL FOR THE U.S. NAVY. THEIR FUEL IS MADE FROM ALGAE AND OILSEEDS - AND IS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EFFORT TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED FOSSIL FUELS. GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER SAID TODAY COMPANIES LIKE SOLAZYME ARE VITAL - IF CALIFORNIA IS TO REACH ITS RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS. EARLIER THIS WEEK THE GOVERNOR SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER - MANDATING CALIFORNIA GET 33 PERCENT OF ITS ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES BY THE YEAR 2020.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/18/09 REPORTED THAT PALO ALTO HAS BANNED THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CITY GROCERY STORES. THE NEW ORDINANCE HAS THE SUPPORT OF PALO ALTO'S SEVEN FULL-SERVICE GROCERY STORES. THEY WILL OFFER PAPER BAGS, OR REUSABLE ONES -- THE KIND WITH HANDLES THAT YOU PURCHASE. OR, YOU CAN BRING YOUR OWN BAG TO CARRY YOUR GROCERIES. THE BAN IS PART OF PALO ALTO'S BROADER PLAN TO CUT DOWN ON LITTER -- AND LANDFILL WASTE. CITY LEADERS ARE WORKING TO EXPAND THE BAN WITH PHARMACIES AND OTHER STORES.

GOVERNMENT- LOCAL/ STATE/FEDRAL

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/2/09 REPORTED THAT CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND WATER USE ARE GETTING ATTENTION FROM WASHINGTON... ABOUT \$130 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF ATTENTION. FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY IS ON ITS WAY TO MORE THAN TWO-DOZEN WATER RECYCLING PROJECTS. WHILE 70-PERCENT OF THEM ARE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE COMING TO THE BAY AREA. SOME OF THE MONEY WILL GO TO SANITATION DEPARTMENTS IN ANTIOCH AND PITTSBURG. SAN JOSE AND SANTA CLARA COUNTY ARE GETTING MILLIONS FOR WATER RECYCLING AND RECLAMATION PROJECTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/6/09 REPORTED THAT AL FRANKEN GETS SERIOUS, AS THE NEWEST U-S SENATOR.. REPLACING JOKES WITH A 'GET DOWN TO BUSINESS' ATTITUDE. TOMORROW, HE'LL BE SWORN IN AS THE 60-TH DEMOCRAT GIVING THE PARTY A SOLID MAJORITY. A HUMBLE FRANKEN SPOKE WITH

REPORTERS TODAY. LAST WEEK, FRANKEN WAS DECLARED THE WINNER OVER REPUBLICAN INCUMBENT NORM COLEMAN, AFTER AN EIGHT-MONTH COURT BATTLE OVER JUST 312 VOTES.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT OAKLAND LAWMAKERS TONIGHT WILL CONSIDER SETTING BOLD NEW POLLUTION TARGETS ... TO CUT GREENHOUSE GASES AND FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING. THE CITY COUNCIL WILL SIT DOWN AT 7:00 O'CLOCK TO HEAR THE INITIAL PROPOSAL ... ON A PLAN TO IMPOSE TOUGH GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION TARGETS. THE PLAN AIMS TO CUT EMISSIONS IN OAKLAND BY 36-PERCENT BY 20-20 AND 83-PERCENT BY 20-50. IF ADOPTED THE TARGETS WOULD BE AMONG THE STRICTEST IN THE NATION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT WASHINGTON D-C IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY. A LAW RECOGNIZING SAME SEX MARRIAGES PERFORMED ELSEWHERE, HAS GONE INTO EFFECT IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL. SIX STATES, CONNECTICUT, IOWA, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE ALLOW SAME SEX MARRIAGE. CONGRESS, WHICH HAS THE FINAL SAY OVER THE CITY'S LAWS, HAD 30 DAYS TO REVIEW THE BILL.. BUT TOOK NO ACTION STOPPING THE BILL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/10/09 REPORTED AT THE VATICAN PRESIDENT OBAMA WAS WARMLY WELCOMED BY POPE BENEDICT. THEY'RE AT ODDS ON ABORTION AND STEM CELL RESEARCH ... BUT COMPLETELY IN STEP ON MANY MORE ISSUES, LIKE MIDDLE EAST PEACE, AND HELPING THE POOR. THE G-8 SUMMIT ENDED WITH A PLEDGE OF 20 BILLION DOLLARS TO HELP POOR NATIONS AND A BLUNT ASSESSMENT THAT THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS ISN'T OVER YET. WHILE THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN TRAVELING HE'S TAKING HEAT AT HOME FOR THE SO-FAR SLOW RETURN ON HIS STIMULUS INVESTMENT. ON CAPITOL HILL, TREASURY SECRETARY TIM GEITHNER WENT ON OFFENSE SAYING THERE ARE SIGNS THE ECONOMIC FREEFALL HAS STOPPED. MEANWHILE ONE FRUSTRATED DEMOCRAT ACCUSED REPUBLICANS OF PARTISAN NITPICKING. THE PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS ARE BOTH CALLING HEALTH CARE REFORM CRITICAL TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC FUTURE BUT THEY'RE MILES APART ON HOW TO DO IT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/17/09 REPORTED THAT GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER CUT THE STATE'S MOTOR VEHICLE FLEET BY 15-PERCENT TODAY, FOLLOWING REPORTS OF WASTE AND ABUSE. THE FRAUD INVOLVING CARS STATE EMPLOYEES ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE HOME, WAS REPORTED TO THE GOVERNOR'S "WASTE-WATCHERS" WEBSITE. GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER ALSO ORDERED AN AUDIT OF THOSE HOME STORAGE PERMITS. AND A SURVEY OF THE FLEET TO IDENTIFY SURPLUS CARS, WHICH WILL BE SOLD AT THE STATE'S "GARAGE SALE", NEXT MONTH. THE REFORMS ARE EXPECTED TO SAVE MORE THAN 24-MILLION DOLLARS, A YEAR.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/17/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA DID SOME SERIOUS CHEERLEADING FOR HIS HEALTH CARE REFORM PLAN TODAY .. BECAUSE REPUBLICANS HAVE STARTED THROWING UP ROADBLOCKS. THE PRESIDENT MADE A SHORT SPEECH TO THE PRESS IN THE WHITE HOUSE THIS AFTERNOON. HE SAYS THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN CONSENSUS AMONG MANY HOSPITALS, PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES AND INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT REFORM IS NEEDED. THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE REFORM PACKAGE WAS INTRODUCED BY DEMOCRATS THIS WEEK. IT'S ALREADY WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH COMMITTEE, BUT OPPONENTS WANT TO SLOW THE PROCESS WHILE THEY REVIEW THE COSTS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/28/09 REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN TOOK A BEATING ON CAPITOL HILL TODAY EVEN AS HE WON SUPPORT FROM THE A-A-R-P FOR UNIVERSAL COVERAGE. MEMBERS OF KEY COMMITTEES ARE CLOSE TO ELIMINATING TWO PARTS OF THE REFORM THE PRESIDENT HAS DEMANDED: THEY ARE KILLING PUBLIC OPTION GOVERNMENT INSURANCE IN FAVOR OF MEDICAL COOPERATIVES -- AND THE MANDATE THAT WOULD HAVE FORCED COMPANIES WHO DON'T INSURE THEIR EMPLOYEES .. TO START OFFERING COVERAGE. SOME REPUBLICANS SAY IT'S A START. DESPITE THE COMPROMISES, THERE'S LITTLE CHANCE OF MEANINGFUL VOTES ANYTIME SOON, EVEN IF MEMBERS DECIDE TO POSTPONE THEIR AUGUST BREAK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/30/09 REPORTED THAT THE STATE BUDGET BATTLE HAS LEFT GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER'S POPULARITY AT A NEW LOW. A POLL FROM CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE FOUND JUST 28-PERCENT OF CALIFORNIANS LIKE THE JOB HE'S DOING. COINCIDENTALLY, THE LAST STATE GOVERNOR TO HAVE SUCH A LOW RATING WAS GRAY DAVIS-- WITH 23-PERCENT. DAVIS WAS RECALLED BY VOTERS, OPENING THE DOOR FOR SCHWARZENEGGER TO MOVE-INTO THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. STATE LAWMAKERS GOT JUST 17-PERCENT APPROVAL.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/04/09 REPORTED THAT TURNING TO HOME, THE STATE BUDGET AFTERMATH CONTINUES TO TAKE A TOLL, PARTICULARLY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. HOW SERIOUS IS THE LATEST ROUND OF CUTS? PRETTY SERIOUS, ESPECIALLY ON TOP OF THE CUTS WE SAT LAST MARCH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/04/09 REPORTED THAT NO MORE MYSPACE FOR MARINES. THE MARINE CORPS IS BANNING ITS TROOPS FROM USING SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES. FACEBOOK IS ALSO AMONG THE SITES THAT ARE NOW BLOCKED FROM THE MARINE CORP NETWORK. OFFICIALS ARE CITING CYBER SECURITY CONCERNS, AS THE REASON FOR THE BAN... SAYING SUCH SITES PUT CERTAIN INFORMATION IN THE WRONG HANDS. THE MOVE IS PART OF A LARGER PENTAGON REVIEW ON THE THREATS AND BENEFITS OF SOCIAL NETWORKING. MARINES CAN STILL USE MY SPACE AND FACEBOOK ON THEIR OWN PRIVATE COMPUTERS, OUTSIDE OF WORK.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/04/09 REPORTED THAT IN WASHINGTON, SUPREME COURT NOMINEE, SONIA SOTOMAYOR, IS EXPECTED TO BE CONFIRMED TOMORROW... BUT REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION IS BUILDING. SUPPORTERS ORGANIZED A RALLY AT THE CAPITOL TODAY, IN SUPPORT OF HER NOMINATION AND TO COUNTER REPUBLICAN CRITICISM. LAWMAKERS, CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS AND HISPANIC LEADERS URGED THE SENATE TO APPROVE HER. AT LEAST 28 REPUBLICANS SAY THEY'LL VOTE AGAINST HER, BUT A HANDFUL TODAY ENDORSED HER. THE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE ON SOTOMAYOR'S CONFIRMATION TOMORROW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/5/09 REPORTED THAT A WARNING FROM SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HARRY REID TO LAWMAKERS TODAY BE PREPARED TO WORK ON FIXING THE CASH FOR CLUNKERS PROGRAM - EVEN IF IT MEANS MISSING OUT ON SUMMER BREAK. SENATOR REID SAYS IF THE CONGRESS DOESN'T PASS THE 2 BILLION DOLLAR PLAN TO REPLENISH THE POPULAR PROGRAM - THEY MIGHT MISS PART OF THEIR AUGUST RECESS. JUST YESTERDAY, REID SAID HE HAD THE VOTES IN THE SENATE. THE PROGRAM IS RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS QUICKLY. THIS FUNDING WOULD HELP KEEP THE PROGRAM AFLOAT UNTIL NEXT MONTH.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/10/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA WRAPPED UP A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF CANADA AND

MEXICO TODAY SAYING THAT BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY GETTING HEALTH CARE REFORM ADOPTED, HIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T FOCUS YET ON IMMIGRATION REFORM. AT THE SUMMIT IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO, THE PRESIDENTS DISCUSSED TRADE AND SECURITY. AND MR. OBAMA SAID THE TOPIC OF IMMIGRATION WILL BE ADDRESSED. THE PRESIDENT PREDICTED HE'LL SEE DRAFT LEGISLATION ON IMMIGRATION OVERHAUL THIS YEAR, BUT THE ISSUE WON'T BE A LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY UNTIL 2010.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE SENATE IS SUING TO STOP BUDGET CUTS MADE BY THE GOVERNOR USING HIS LINE-ITEM VETO. NOW LEGAL EXPERTS SAY HE MIGHT HAVE A CASE. SENATOR DARREL STEINBERG CLAIMS GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER DOESN'T HAVE LINE ITEM VETO POWER OVER BUDGET REVISION BILLS WHICH IS WHAT HE SIGNED LAST MONTH. AN EXPERT FROM MCGEORGE LAW SCHOOL SAYS SHE CAN SEE SOME VALID ISSUES RAISED BY THE SUIT ADDING THE JUDGES WILL PROBABLY EXPEDITE THE CASE BECAUSE THE SPENDING CUTS ARE ALREADY IN EFFECT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/2/09 REPORTED THAT DEMOCRAT JOHN GARAMENDI WILL FACE REPUBLICAN DAVID HARMER IN A NOVEMBER RUNOFF ELECTION FOR THE SEAT VACATED BY FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN ELLEN TAUSCHER. GARAMENDI WON 26-PERCENT OF YESTERDAY'S VOTE. HARMER WON 20-PERCENT OF THE VOTE TO LEAD THE REPUBLICANS. THE DISTRICT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED SAFE FOR DEMOCRATS, BUT HARMER BELIEVES THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND RECORD SPENDING DEFICITS PUT THE DISTRICT IN PLAY FOR THE G-O-P. THE RUNOFF ELECTION WILL BE NOVEMBER THIRD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/8/09 REPORTED THAT IN A TRADITIONAL CEREMONY IN A VERY TRADITIONAL PLACE -- THE SUPREME COURT'S NEWEST JUSTICE TOOK HER SEAT ON THE HIGH COURT'S BENCH. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY FOR JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR-- SHE WALKED OUT OF THE SUPREME COURT WITH CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS. THEY WALKED DOWN THE STEPS TO APPLAUSE FROM A SMALL CROWD OF TOURISTS AND WELL-WISHERS. SOTOMAYOR BECAME THE FIRST HISPANIC AND THIRD WOMEN TO SIT ON THE SUPREME COURT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT A BILL IS ON ITS WAY TO GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S DESK THAT WOULD CALL FOR A HUGE UPTICK IN THE STATE'S MANDATED RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARDS. THE GOVERNOR SAYS HE'S COMMITTED TO RENEWABLE ENERGY... BUT HE WON'T SIGN THIS BILL. THE BILL WOULD REQUIRE THE STATE TO PRODUCE 33 PERCENT OF ITS ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES LIKE WIND AND SOLAR POWER BY 2020. CRITICS SAY THE GOVERNOR CALLED THE BILL "POORLY DRAFTED AND OVERLY COMPLEX." INSTEAD THE GOVERNOR SAYS HE WILL SIGN AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO MANDATE THE 33 PERCENT ADMINISTRATIVELY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT STATE OFFICIALS TODAY TALKED OVER RULES THAT WOULD GOVERN A NEW CITIZEN RUN PANEL EMPOWERED WITH SETTING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS. VOTERS IN 2008 APPROVED A BALLOT MEASURE THAT CREATED THE CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION DRAWS LEGISLATIVE BOUNDARIES - RATHER THAN LAWMAKERS THEMSELVES. THE COMMISSION WILL REDRAW VOTER DISTRICTS BASED ON THE 20-10 CENSUS THEN APPLY THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME FOR THE 20-12 ELECTIONS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT IN NEW YORK CITY, PRESIDENT OBAMA TOOK A LUNCH BREAK AFTER HIS WALL STREET SPEECH.. TO MEET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON. THE TWO MEN ATE AT "IL MULINO," AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT IN GREENWICH VILLAGE...AS THEY DISCUSSED THE GLOBAL ECONOMY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AND A HALF. WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY ROBERT GIBBS SAID AFTERWARDS.. THAT OBAMA VALUES CLINTON'S ADVICE AND THE TWO HAVE A STRONG RELATIONSHIP.

HEALTH/NUTRITION & DISEASE

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/3/09 REPORTED THAT WORLD HEALTH EXPERTS ARE WARNING THE GLOBAL SWINE FLU OUTBREAK IS FAR FROM OVER. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SAYS TODAY THAT WE ARE AT THE START OF A GLOBAL PHENOMENON. HUNDREDS OF SPECIALISTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY ARE MEETING IN CANCUN TO DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR BATTLING THE PANDEMIC. JUST THIS WEEK, THE UNITED KINGDOM'S HEALTH MINISTER WARNED THE FLU COULD STRIKE AS MANY AS 10-THOUSAND BRITONS A DAY BY THE END OF AUGUST.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/3/09 REPORTED THAT WHEN YOU'RE READING THE LABELS ON YOUR FOOD, YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE FINE PRINT. MANUFACTURERS CAN BE SNEAKY ABOUT MAKING THEIR PRODUCTS TASTE BETTER BUT YOU MAY BE PAYING THE PRICE. (INTERVIEW: SAMANTHA CASSETTY) AMERICANS CONSUME ABOUT 377 CALORIES OF ADDED SUGAR A DAY. THAT CAN ADD 6 MORE POUNDS A YEAR TO YOUR WEIGHT. EVEN THOUGH THERE'S SUGAR THAT OCCURS NATURALLY IN THINGS LIKE FRUIT AND YOGURT, AND DAIRY FOODS, MANUFACTURERS ARE ADDING SUGARS TO EVERYTHING AND INCREASINGLY SWEETENING THE FOODS THAT WE EAT. DRINKS WITH THE WORD WATER IN ITS NAME CAN BE ESPECIALLY DECEPTIVE, LIKE THIS 20 OZ. BOTTLE OF GLACEAU VITAMIN WATER ENERGY. IT HAS A WHOPPING 8 TEASPOONS OF ADDED SUGAR IN EACH SERVING. SUGAR CAN BE HIDING UNDER OTHER NAMES LIKE CRYSTALLINE FRUCTOSE, HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP, BROWN RICE SYRUP, EVEN FRUIT JUICE CONCENTRATE. ONE CUP OF KASHI GO LEAN CRUNCH CONTAINS 3 TEASPOONS OF SUGAR. BUT WHO EATS JUST ONE CUP? KETCHUP MAY BE THE BIGGEST CULPRIT OF THEM ALL. ONE TABLESPOON EQUALS ONE TEASPOON OF ADDED SUGAR. BUT TO OUR SURPRISE, ONE TABLESPOON COVERED THIS BURGER NICELY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/10/09 REPORTED SKYROCKETING HEALTHCARE COSTS ARE PUTTING THE SQUEEZE ON SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS. LEAVING SOME THEIR WORKERS WILL LITTLE OR NO COVERAGE. PREMIUMS FOR EMPLOYER-SPONSORED INSURANCE HAVE DOUBLED IN THE LAST DECADE- GOING UP THREE TIMES FASTER THAN WAGES. SMALL BUSINESSES PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR NEARLY 68-MILLION AMERICANS EVERY YEAR. BUT ONE REPORT SAYS SMALL BUSINESSES PAY 18-PERCENT MORE THAN LARGE FIRMS. AND HALF THE NATION'S SMALL BUSINESSES SAY THEY SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD IT, PUTTING FAMILIES AT RISK. PART OF THE LATEST COMPROMISE ON CAPITOL HILL IS PENALIZING SMALL BUSINESSES THAT DROP COVERAGE, IF THE GOVERNMENT OFFERS A PUBLIC PLAN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/15/09 REPORTED THAT WE ALL KNOW DRINKING AND DRIVING CAN BE DEADLY...DID YOU KNOW TEXTING BEHIND THE WHEEL CAN ALSO KILL? TONIGHT WE PROVE IT BY PUTTING TEXTING TO THE TEST. WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ASK DRIVERS TO TYPE A MESSAGE AND STAY SAFE ON A TEST COURSE. HERE'S NBC BAY AREA'S GEORGE KIRIYAMA WITH THE DANGERS

OF "DRIVING WHILE IN-TEXTICATED." WHEN YOU TEXT AND DRIVE...POLICE AND TRAFFIC EXPERTS SAY THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT CAN HAPPEN. ACCIDENTS. MELISSA MARTIN'S 17 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER AMANDA WAS KILLED ON THE ROADWAY. AND LAST YEAR A TRAIN OPERATOR IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HAD JUST SENT A TEXT WHEN HIS TRAIN SLAMMED INTO ANOTHER. 25 PEOPLE DIED. WHILE IT'S EASY TO SPOT DRIVERS ILLEGALLY HOLDING A PHONE TO THEIR EARS POLICE OFFICERS WILL TELL YOU ENFORCING THE TEXTING LAW IS DIFFICULT. TRAFFIC OFFICERS SAY TEXTING MAY BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN TALKING ON THE PHONE BECAUSE YOUR EYES ARE NOT ALWAYS ON THE ROAD. POLICE SAY TEXTING AND DRIVING SHOULD NOT MIX BECAUSE "DRIVING WHILE INTEXTICATED" COULD COST YOU YOUR LIFE. SO FAR THE C-H-P HAS HANDED OUT ONLY 655 TEXTING CITATIONS STATEWIDE 76 HERE IN THE BAY AREA. COMPARE THAT TO THE 200-THOUSAND TICKETS ISSUED STATEWIDE TO DRIVERS NOT USING A HANDS FREE DEVICE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/28/09 REPORTED THAT CLINICAL TRIALS OF VACCINES FOR SWINE FLU ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. TOMORROW, THE C-D-C IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS WHO SHOULD BE VACCINATED FIRST. YOUNG, HEALTHY WOMEN ARE SUCCUMBING TO THE H-1-N-1 VIRUS, ALSO KNOWN AS "SWINE FLU" APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF ONE FACTOR: THEY'RE PREGNANT. OF THE MORE THAN 300 DEATHS IN THE U-S ASSOCIATED WITH THE SWINE FLU... AT LEAST 15 VICTIMS WERE PREGNANT -- LIKE THIS WOMAN IN ILLINOIS WHO PASSED AWAY IN MAY. AND IT'S EXPECTED THAT PREGNANT WOMEN WILL BE HIGH ON THE LIST TO GET THE SWINE FLU VACCINE WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE -- POSSIBLY IN OCTOBER. MOST DOCTORS RECOMMEND PREGNANT WOMEN ALSO GET THE SEASONAL FLU VACCINE, WHICH IS IN PRODUCTION NOW. HISTORICALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF FLU VACCINES AFFECTING THE UNBORN BABY. IN FACT -- STUDIES HAVE SHOWN WOMEN WHO GET THE FLU SHOT WHILE PREGNANT PASS MUCH OF THAT IMMUNITY TO THEIR BABIES, WHO HAVE SOME PROTECTION AFTER THEY'RE BORN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/28/09 REPORTED THAT THE SAME ADDITIVE THAT GIVES GATORADE AND M&M'S THEIR BRIGHT BLUE COLOR COULD ONE-DAY HELP TREAT SPINAL CORD INJURIES-- BUT WITH AN ODD SIDE EFFECT. IT WOULD TURN YOU INTO A SMURF. SCIENTISTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER SAY RATS INJECTED WITH THE DYE REGAINED THE ABILITY TO WALK. ALTHOUGH WITH A LIMP.THEY ALSO TURNED BLUE-- NOT THEIR FUR, BUT THEY DEVELOPED ADORABLE BLUE NOSES, EARS, AND FEET.THE TREATMENT IS YEARS AWAY FROM BEING USED IN HUMANS, BUT RESEARCHERS ARE EXCITED.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/03/09 REPORTED THAT A STUDY IN TODAY'S JOURNAL "PEDIATRICS" FINDS SEVEN IN 10 AMERICAN CHILDREN DON'T GET ENOUGH VITAMIN D. ONE IN TEN HAVE LEVELS SO LOW, THEY'RE DEFICIENT. MILK AND FISH ARE BIG SOURCES OF VITAMIN D - BUT SO IS **SUNSHINE** -- AND *THAT'S* WHERE RESEARCHERS THINK AMERICAN CHILDREN FALL SHORT: IT'S A BIG ISSUE FOR PEOPLE WITH DARK SKIN - BECAUSE THEIR BODIES CAN'T ABSORB VITAMIN D AS EASILY. THE "PEDIATRICS" STUDY FOUND SIX IN TEN AFRICAN AMERICAN TEENAGE GIRLS ARE VITAMIN D DEFICIENT. LATER IN LIFE, THAT CAN LEAD TO OSTEOPOROSIS, CANCER, AND - ACCORDING TO ANOTHER NEW STUDY OUT TODAY - HEART PROBLEMS. ALL OF WHICH ARE RISK FACTORS FOR HEART DISEASE... BUT CAN BE REDUCED FOR MOST PEOPLE WITH JUST 10-15 MINUTES OF SUNSHINE EVERY DAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/03/09 REPORTED THAT WHILE PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IS VITAL FOR STUDENTS' HEALTH, IT'S ALSO LANDING MORE OF THEM IN THE HOSPITAL. INJURIES RELATED TO P-E ACCIDENTS HAVE INCREASED 150-PERCENT SINCE 19-97, ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY. MOST OF

THE INJURIES HAPPENED WHILE KIDS WERE RUNNING, DOING GYMNASTICS, OR PLAYING BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, VOLLEYBALL AND SOCCER. MIDDLE SCHOOL CHILDREN AND STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CHEERLEADING WERE INJURED THE MOST. RESEARCHERS DON'T KNOW WHY GYM ACCIDENTS ARE ON THE RISE. BUT ONE EXPERT THINKS IT MAY HAVE MORE TO DO WITH LACK OF ADULT SUPERVISION THAN VIGOROUS GYM PROGRAMS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/07/09 REPORTED THAT AT LEAST 21 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SICKENED BY SALMONELLA-TAINTED BEEF. THE GROUND BEEF, PRODUCED BY A COMPANY IN FRESNO, WENT OUT TO STORES IN 12 STATES...INCLUDING CALIFORNIA. NBC BAY AREA'S VICKY NGUYEN HAS BEEN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS OUTBREAK. THE GROUND BEEF WAS PRODUCED BETWEEN JUNE 5 AND JUNE 23. IT WENT OUT TO SAFEWAY, SAMS CLUB AND UNITED GROCERS. "BEEF PACKERS" RECALLED MORE THAN 800 THOUSAND POUNDS OF MEAT FROM STORE SHELVES. SO FAR SALMONELLA POISONING LINKED TO THE BEEF HAS SURFACED IN AT LEAST 11 STATES, INCLUDING CALIFORNIA, COLORADO AND ARIZONA. LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE OFF TODAY DUE TO THE STATE MANDATED FURLOUGH FRIDAYS. BUT INVESTIGATORS ARE PLANNING TO EXAMINE THE BEEF PROCESSING FACILITIES IN FRESNO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/07/09 REPORTED THAT THIS WOULD BE MUSIC TO THE EARS OF PARENTS EVERYWHERE. PUTTING A PERMANENT END TO EAR INFECTIONS. RESEARCHERS ARE WORKING ON THREE EXPERIMENTAL VACCINES, WHICH COULD POTENTIALLY PREVENT EAR INFECTIONS. BUT CREATING A VACCINE IS DIFFICULT BECAUSE MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED DIFFERENT GERMS CAUSE THE INFECTIONS. SO FAR-- THE THREE EXPERIMENTAL VACCINES ARE IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA TODAY SAID VACCINATIONS WILL BE VOLUNTARY BUT -- STRONGLY -- RECOMMENDED. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE FROM THE ROSE GARDEN AFTER BEING BRIEFED BY HEALTH AND HOMELAND SECURITY LEADERS. A WHITE HOUSE REPORT SUGGESTS HALF THE U-S POPULATION COULD BE INFECTED IN A WORST CASE SCENERIO.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/1/09 REPORTED THAT GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER WARNS OF A FLU PANDEMIC WHICH COULD SICKEN MILLIONS OF CALIFORNIANS-- IF PEOPLE DO NOT TAKE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS. WHILE TOURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH LAB IN RICHMOND TODAY-- HE URGED TAKING COMMON SENSE STEPS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF THE SWINE FLU. THAT INCLUDES GETTING H-1-N-1 VACCINES. HE ALSO UNVEILED A NEW WEB SITE-- WWW.DOT.CAL.PAN.FLU.DOT.ORG. THAT'S WHERE DOCTORS AND CLINICS CAN REGISTER INFORMATION WITH THE STATE IN ORDER TO GET A SUPPLY OF THE VACCINE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT SUFFERING FROM ALLERGIES MAY DO MORE THAN JUST LEAVE YOU WITH A STUFFY NOSE. A NEW STUDY FINDS IT CAN ALSO DAMPEN YOUR SEX LIFE. RESEARCHERS AT THE CLEVELAND CLINIC POLLED 700 PEOPLE WITH ALLERGIES. 83 PERCENT SAID THEIR NASAL ALLERGIES SOMETIMES AFFECTED THEIR SEXUAL ACTIVITY. 17 PERCENT SAID IT ALWAYS GOT IN THE WAY OF A SATISFYING SEX LIFE.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT SENATE HEALTH CARE NEGOTIATORS SAY THEY HAVE CUT THE COST OF A HEALTH CARE PLAN, BUT THEY'RE NOT SHAKING HANDS YET. THE TOTAL TAB IS NOW 880-BILLION DOLLARS. NEGOTIATORS ALSO MADE PROGRESS ON A VERIFICATION SYSTEM SO

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS DON'T GET GOVERNMENT COVERAGE. NOW THEY'RE WORKING TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MALPRACTICE LAWSUITS EXPECTED TO SPRING OUT OF ANY HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION. DEMOCRATIC SENATOR MAX BAUCUS, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, WANTS A BIPARTISAN DEAL READY AS EARLY AS TOMORROW.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/15/09 REPORTED THAT SWINE FLU VACCINES ARE GOING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. THE F-D-A HAS JUST APPROVED VACCINES FROM FOUR DRUG MAKERS-- PAVING THE WAY FOR THE FIRST DOSES TO BE DELIVERED IN EARLY OCTOBER. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY KATHLEEN SEBELIUS TOLD CONGRESS THE VACCINE SHOULD EVENTUALLY BE AVAILABLE TO 90-THOUSAND SITES AROUND ON THE COUNTRY. THOSE AT HIGHEST RISK WILL GET FIRST PRIORITY. THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED 195-MILLION DOSES BUT THE VACCINE WON'T ARRIVE ALL AT ONCE. ABOUT 45-MILLION DOSES ARE EXPECTED BY MID-OCTOBER.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS/SAFETY & SECURITY

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/7/09 REPORTED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON IS LOOKING TO COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT OSCAR ARIAS TO MEDIATE THE POLITICAL CRISIS IN HONDURAS. CLINTON ANNOUNCED ARIAS WOULD ACT AS THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIATOR TODAY, AFTER MEETING WITH OUSTED HONDURAN PRESIDENT MANUEL ZE-LAYA. ZELAYA WAS RUN OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN A MILITARY COUP LAST MONTH. CLINTON NOTED THAT PRESIDENT ARIAS WON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN 1987, FOR HIS WORK IN CENTRAL AMERICA'S CIVIL WARS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/17/09 REPORTED THAT TWO EMPLOYEES OF A PHOENIX BASED COMPANY ARE AMONG THE INJURED IN TWIN SUICIDE BOMBINGS IN JAKARTA. THEY'VE BEEN FLOWN TO SINGAPORE FOR TREATMENT. AUTHORITIES BELIEVE MEMBERS OF AN AL-QAIDA LINKED TERROR GROUP CHECKED INTO THE MARRIOTT AS EARLY AS WEDNESDAY. IN THEIR ROOM ON THE 18TH FLOOR, THE MEN ASSEMBLED THE BOMBS, BEFORE SETTING THEM OFF IN RESTAURANTS AT BOTH THE MARRIOTT AND THE NEIGHBORING RITZ-CARLTON. POLICE SAY THEY FOUND AN UNDETONATED DEVICE IN THE ROOM, AFTER THE BLASTS. THE COORDINATED ATTACKS KILLED 8-PEOPLE AND WOUNDED MORE THAN 50-OTHERS.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/27/09 REPORTED THAT MORE QUESTIONS ARE SURFACING AFTER LAST WEEK'S FATAL SHOOTING OF A U-S-BORDER AGENT THAT BROUGHT FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS TO THE BAY AREA. POLICE ARRESTED 39 YEAR OLD SALVADOR PICASO AMBRIZ ... AT O-CONNOR HOSPITAL IN SAN JOSE FRIDAY. IT CAME ONE DAY AFTER BORDER AGENT ROBERT ROSAS ... WAS SHOT AND KILLED IN EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY ... WHILE INVESTIGATING A GROUP SUSPECTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING. TODAY PICASO AMBRIZ APPEARED IN FEDERAL COURT IN SAN JOSE ... ALTHOUGH THE F-B-I WILL NOT CONFIRM WHAT CONNECTION HE HAS TO ROSAS' DEATH. MEANTIME - FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS IN SAN DIEGO ARE HOLDING THE MAN THEY BELIEVE SHOT ROSAS ... 36 YEAR OLD ERNESTO VALENZUELA. HE WAS DETAINED WITH AT LEAST FIVE OTHER SUSPECTS ON FRIDAY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 7/28/09 REPORTED THAT SEVEN NORTH CAROLINA MEN ARE IN FEDERAL CUSTODY ... INCLUDING A FATHER AND HIS TWO SONS ... SUSPECTED OF PLANNING VIOLENT TERRORIST ATTACKS OVERSEAS.

THE F-B-I- SAYS 39 YEAR OLD DANIEL PATRICK BOYD WAS THE RINGLEADER OF A NORTH CAROLINA BASED TERRORIST GROUP INVOLVED IN MILITARY STYLE TRAINING AND WEAPONS BUYING. THE GROUP WAS ALLEGEDLY PLANNING ATTACKS OVERSEAS IN COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO THE U-S-. ALSO IN CUSTODY ARE BOYD'S TWO SONS AND THREE OTHER MEN ALL SAID TO BE LEGAL U-S- CITIZENS.THE SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED IN F-B-I- RAIDS YESTERDAY. THEY COULD FACE LIFE IN PRISON.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/01/09 REPORTED THAT IN IRAN, STATE TELEVISION CONFIRMED THAT THREE AMERICANS WHO CROSSED INTO THE COUNTRY FROM IRAQ YESTERDAY ARE BEING DETAINED. IRAN'S STATE MEDIA SAYS THE AMERICANS WERE ARRESTED AFTER THEY FAILED TO HEED WARNINGS FROM BORDER GUARDS -- WHILE OFFICIALS FROM NORTHERN IRAQ SAY THE THREE WERE TOURISTS ... WHO ACCIDENTALLY CROSSED WHILE HIKING IN THE MOUNTAINS. MEANWHILE, IRAN BEGAN ITS MASS TRIAL TODAY OF 100 PEOPLE ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TO TOPPLE THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN JUNE. HERE IN THE BAY AREA -- A PRAYER SERVICE WAS HELD FOR ALL THOSE KILLED IN THE CHAOS AFTER THE ELECTION.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 8/5/09 REPORTED THAT IRANIAN PRESIDENT, MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD HAS BEEN SWORN IN FOR A SECOND TERM. AFTER TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE, AHMADINEJAD PLEDGED TO PROTECT IRAN'S CONSTITUTION AND BORDERS.HE ALSO APPEALED FOR NATIONAL UNITY.DURING THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, HUNDREDS OF DEMONSTRATORS ALSO HIT THE STREETS. SECURITY FORCES WERE BROUGHT IN TO BREAK-UP THE PROTESTS. AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED. ANY BELIEVE AHMADINEJAD WAS RE-ELECTED BY FRAUD - AND PRO-REFORM LEADER MIR HOSSEIN MOUSAVI WAS THE TRUE WINNER.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/07/09 REPORTED THAT SECRETARY OF STATE HILLARY CLINTON MET TODAY WITH SOUTH AFRICAN LEADER AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER, NELSON MANDELA. SHE SPENT 30-MINUTES WITH 91-YEAR OLD MANDELA IN A PRIVATE MEETING. AFTERWARD, SHE VISITED HIS ARCHIVES AT THE NELSON MANDELA CENTER LOOKING AT LETTERS AND DIARIES, HE WROTE DURING HIS 27-YEARS IN PRISON. IN A SEPARATE ADDRESS, SHE ENCOURAGED SOUTH AFRICA TO TAKE A LEADING ROLE HELPING OTHER AFRICAN NATIONS DRIVE THEIR ECONOMIES FORWARD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT THE FIGHT OVER NATIONAL HEALTH CARE HAS LEAD TO PASSIONATE DEBATE ACROSS THE NATION. BUT HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI SAYS SOME AREN'T PLAYING FAIR. THE BAY AREA ACTIVIST GROUP CODE PINK ISN'T EXACTLY SHY ABOUT DELIVERING ITS ANTI-WAR MESSAGE, WHETHER IN FRONT OF A BERKELEY RECRUITMENT CENTER OR ON THE FLOOR OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION. ANET WEIL SAYS THE GROUP'S UNIQUE BRAND OF PROTEST IS DESIGNED TO GET A SEAT AT THE TABLES... IT ISN'T INVITED TO. BUT WEIL DRAWS A BIG PINK LINE BETWEEN CODE PINKS METHODS AND CONSERVATIVES WHO HAVE RECENTLY SHOUTED-DOWN TOWN HALL MEETINGS ON NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM. HOUSE SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI IS ALSO SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THOSE WHO ARE SPEAKING OUT. IN AN OPINION PIECE IN U-S-A TODAY SHE ACCUSED CONSERVATIVES OF RUNNING AN UGLY CAMPAIGN TO DISRUPT PUBLIC MEETINGS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM, AND WAGING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. IN SAN FRANCISCO TODAY, PELOSI ECHOED HER WRITTEN COMMENTS THAT STIFLING OTHER OPINIONS WAS UNAMERICAN. BUT EVEN THOUGH CODE PINK'S IDEOLOGY COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT THAN CONSERVATIVES.... WEIL DEFENDS THEIR RIGHT TO PROTEST. BUT JUST BECAUSE CODE PINK SHARES PELOSI'S VIEWS ON HEALTH CARE DOESN'T GUARANTEE HER A FREE PASS. LAST YEAR, THE GROUP STAGED A WEEK LONG ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATAION IN HER OWN FRONT YARD.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00 PM-7:00 PM 08/10/09 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT OBAMA WRAPPED UP A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF CANADA AND MEXICO TODAY SAYING THAT BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY GETTING HEALTH CARE REFORM ADOPTED, HIS ADMINISTRATION CAN'T FOCUS YET ON IMMIGRATION REFORM. AT THE SUMMIT IN GUADALAJARA, MEXICO, THE PRESIDENTS DISCUSSED TRADE AND SECURITY, AND MR. OBAMA SAID THE TOPIC OF IMMIGRATION WILL BE ADDRESSED. THE PRESIDENT PREDICTED HE'LL SEE DRAFT LEGISLATION ON IMMIGRATION OVERHAUL THIS YEAR, BUT THE ISSUE WON'T BE A LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY UNTIL 2010.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/2/09 REPORTED THAT LIBYA IS IN THE MIDST OF A WEEK OF CELEBRATIONS MARKING MOAMMAR KHADDAFFY'S FOUR DECADES IN POWER. AT THE SAME TIME -- MORE DETAILS ARE COMING OUT ABOUT THE RELEASE OF CONVICTED LOCKERBIE BOMBER ABDEL BASSETT AL-MEGRAHI. THE NATION CELEBRATED WITH FIREWORKS IN TRIPOLI, BUT THERE'S A STORM OF PROTEST IN LONDON AS GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS SHOW GREAT BRITAIN WANTED AL-MEGRAHI RELEASED BEFORE HE DIED OF CANCER. OPPONENTS OF THE RELEASE SAY IT'S ALL PART OF A PLAN TO GIVE BRITAIN ACCESS TO LIBYAN OIL. DURING THE FESTIVITIES IN LIBYA, PICTURES OF AL-MEGRAHI ARRIVING THERE TWO WEEKS AGO WERE PROJECTED ON A LARGE SCREEN.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ARE STAYING TIGHT-LIPPED OVER A TERROR INVESTIGATION THAT BROUGHT THEM TO NEW YORK THIS MORNING FOR A SERIES OF PRE DAWN RAIDS. MEMBERS OF A JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE SEARCHED THREE APARTMENTS. AFTER A BRIEFING ON THE RAIDS NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN PETER KING SAID THE SEARCHES SURROUNDED ONE MAN WITH TIES TO AL QAEDA. NEW YORK SENATOR CHUCK SCHUMER SAID THE DETAILS OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION NEED TO STAY UNDER WRAPS - BUT HE DID INDICATE AN ATTACK WAS NOT IMMINENT.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT AL-QAEDA LEADER OSAMA BIN LADEN RELEASED A NEW AUDIO TAPE-- CALLING PRESIDENT OBAMA POWERLESS TO STOP THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN. THE NEW AUDIO OF BIN LADEN WAS REPORTEDLY ON AN ISLAMIST WEBSITE. THE AUDIOTAPE-- WHICH IS ABOUT TEN MINUTES LONG-- ALSO BLAMED THE WARS IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ ON WHAT HE CALLS THE PRO-ISRAEL LOBBY. RESEARCHERS ARE NOW TRYING TO VERIFY THE AUDIOTAPE'S AUTHENTICITY.

NBC BAY AREA, THE BAY AREA TODAY 6:00PM-7:00PM 9/14/09 REPORTED THAT THREE BRITISH MUSLIMS WHO PLOTTED TO BLOW UP TRANS-ATLANTIC AIRLINERS WITH LIQUID EXPLOSIVES -- WILL SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIVES BEHIND BARS. A JUDGE WHO HANDED DOWN THE SENTENCE TO THE THREE MEN DESCRIBED THE PLOT AS A GRAVE AND WICKED CONSPIRACY. WHEN THE THREE WERE CAUGHT IN 2006-- POLICE BELIEVE THEY WERE JUST DAYS AWAY FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR ATTACKS. THE PLOT PROMPTED AN IMMEDIATE BAN ON CERTAIN LIQUIDS ON PASSENGER JETS-- A BAN THAT REMAINS IN PLACE TODAY.